



ESTABLISHED 1859.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE, 42 CANNON STREET, LONDON, E.C.

BRANCH OFFICE:

NORMANBY CHAMBERS, MELBOURNE.

Published every Saturday.

Subscription 10s. per year, payable in advance;
commencing from any date.

Post free to every country in the world. Single copies, 4d. each.

Supplied only to persons connected with the Trade.

For Australasian subscribers the subsidiary journal THE CHEMIST AND
DRUGGIST OF AUSTRALASIA is included.

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The Week.

WE report this week's meetings, in London, Edinburgh, and Manchester, of the Society of Chemical Industry. At the London meeting Professor Dewar made an important communication on the Weldon-Pechiney chlorine process, and at the Edinburgh one Dr. D. B. Dott made some interesting remarks on alcohol for manufacturing purposes.

WE have a cablegram from America saying that the sensational action brought by Mr. Merck, of Darmstadt, against his former agents, Messrs. Lehn & Fink, is still undecided, judgment having been postponed.

THE "Scotch difficulty" is looming over us again. The Scottish Executive of the Pharmaceutical Society are finding that they are not so independent as they thought they were. Mr. Carteighe is to go to Edinburgh to put things right. Who will tread on the tails of his coat?

THE Hop Bitters Company are to apply to Mr. Justice Stirling for the committal of Mr. Beck, of Hastings, for the letter signed by him which was published in this journal on November 19.

A CHEMIST at Darwen has been prosecuted under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act for selling sweet spirits of nitre (P.L.) when spirit of nitrous ether was asked for. Dr. Campbell Brown was the analyst. The magistrates were puzzled by the evidence, and asked the defendant to get them out of their difficulty by paying the costs and saying no more about it.

SOME members of the Formulary Committee of the British Pharmaceutical Conference disapprove of the formula for elixir of saccharin which was published in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of November 19 by Mr. W. Martindale, as chairman of the committee. The non-contents were not consulted; they do not think the formula a good one, and to some extent they object to the principle of officially attempting to rival a proprietary preparation. Mr. Martindale expressly stated that the formula was a provisional one, and that it was published at the request of "some" of the members of the committee.

MR. MARTINDALE has tendered his resignation as chairman of the Formulary Committee, not on account of this difficulty, but because of other occupations.

DIARY FOR NEXT WEEK.

Secretaries of societies are requested to send early information of approaching meetings.

Wednesday, December 14.

Pharmaceutical Society, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., at 8 P.M. Emeritus Professor Redwood on "The Alleged Fundamental Errors in the British Pharmacopoeia."

Royal Microscopical Society, King's College, W.C., at 8 P.M. Mr. A. D. Michael on "A New Medium"; Mr. T. B. Rosseter on "Generative Organs of Ostracoda"; and Mr. W. M. Maskell on "The Genus Microsterias."

Manchester Pharmaceutical Association, Chemical Club Rooms, Grand Hotel, at 7 P.M. Mr. W. Elborne, F.L.S., on "Two Varieties of English-grown Rose Petals" (*Rosa gallica*).

Thursday, December 15.

Chemists' Assistants' Association, 103 Great Russell Street, W.C., at 9 P.M. Mr. T. A. Ellwood's "Further Investigations on Fixed Oils."

Linnean Society, at 8 P.M. Mr. R. J. Pocock on "Myriopoda of Mergui Archipelago"; Rev. J. T. Gulick on "Divergent Evolution through Cumulative Segregation"; Professor Bower on "Apogony and Apospory in Trichomanes"; and Messrs. Johnston and Morgan on "Fertilisation of *Aranja sericefera*."

Chemical Society, at 8 P.M. "An Apparatus for comparison of Colour Tints," by A. W. Stokes. "The Sulphonation of Naphthalene," by Dr. Armstrong and Mr. W. P. Wynne, B.Sc. "Isomeric changes in the Naphthalene series, Nos. 1, 2, 3 & 4," by Dr. Armstrong and Messrs. Amphlett, Williamson, and Wynne. "Notes from the Chemical Laboratory of the Yorkshire College, Leeds, (1) The Reduction of Chlorates by the Copper-Zinc Couple; (2) The Oxidation of Oxalic Acid by Potassium Bichromate; (3) A Method of separating Supernatant Liquids," by C. H. Bothamley. "The Alloys of Copper and Antimony, and of Copper and Tin," by E. J. Bell, Ph.D.

Friday, December 16.

Pharmaceutical Society, 36 York Place, Edinburgh, at 8.30 P.M., Mr. John Nesbit in the chair. The following papers will be read:—"Liquor Ferri Hypophosphitis Compositus, B.P.C.," by Adam Gibson, F.C.S. "Emulsio Olei Morrhuae, B.P.C.," "Tinctura Quillayae, B.P.C.," by Peter Boa. "Tinctura Iodi Decolorata, B.P.C.," by J. Rutherford Hill. There will be a general discussion on the B.P.C. Formulary, and samples of all the preparations will be shown at the meeting.

Metropolitan Reports.

MESSRS. P. BOULLY & Co., of 85 Bishop's Road, W., have purchased the business of Mr. Oliver Cromwell, 19 Notting Hill Terrace, W., as a branch.

A CHEMIST DIVORCED.—On Monday the wife of William J. G. Marris, chemist and druggist, of Berners Street and Regent Street, W., was granted a divorce by Sir James Hannen on the ground of Mr. Marris's misconduct and cruelty. The parties were married in 1881.

BANG WENT SAXPENCE belonging to George Boyd (forty-seven), the investment being in laudanum, which he swallowed. It produced somnolence, a visit to the hospital, an interesting and successful experiment in toxicology, magisterial attendance at the Guildhall on Wednesday, and a remand. Yet they speak about the depreciation of silver!

THE LONG FIRM FRAUDS.—At Lambeth last Saturday, the persons who are charged with conspiring to defraud a perfumer by bogus sales of goods, were brought up for the fifteenth time. After a long argument between Mr. Kisch and the bench, the whole of the prisoners were then fully committed to take their trial at the next sessions of the Central Criminal Court, bail being accepted as before.

ADULTERATION.—Ebenezer Hughes, of Poplar, sold an inspector some milk, which he admitted at the time he had diluted with 50 per cent. of water, "as he was short that morning." The matter came before the magistrate (Mr. Saunders) at the Thames Police Court last week, and again on Tuesday, when Mr. Saunders said the defendant could not be held liable under the Act, as he stated before the purchase was completed that the milk was not pure. The summons would be dismissed, but a case could be stated if asked for.

SUICIDE OF A CHEMIST.—On the evening of Friday, December 2, James Richardson, aged fifty-six, chemist and druggist, of 448 Kingsland Road, called at the office of Messrs. Schromberg & Co., stockbrokers, of Copthall Court, Throgmorton Street, and stated that he desired to sell some stock. While conversing with Mr. Thompson, one of the members of the firm, he pulled a bottle out of his pocket and drank off its contents. Mr. Thompson, suspecting that it was poison, attempted unsuccessfully to prevent deceased swallowing the contents. Richardson died almost immediately, the poison being prussic acid. It is stated that he had been very depressed of late, owing to financial difficulties in connection with a mortgage.

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN.—At a general monthly meeting held on Monday, Warren de la Rue, Esq., in the chair, the following lecture arrangements were announced:—Sir Robert S. Ball, Royal Astronomer of Ireland, six lectures (adapted to a juvenile auditory) on "Astronomy;" G. J. Romanes, Esq., ten lectures, "Before and After Darwin;" Hubert Herkomer, Esq., A.R.A. Slade Professor of Fine Art in the University of Oxford, three lectures; C. Hubert H. Parry, Esq., M.A., Professor of Musical History and Composition at the Royal College of Music, four lectures on "Early Secular Choral Music;" Rev. W. H. Dallinger, three lectures on "Microscopical Work with Recent Lenses on the Least and Simplest Forms of Life;" Right Hon. Lord Rayleigh, seven lectures on "Experimental Optics;" and William Archer, Esq., three lectures on "The Modern Drama."

A DESTRUCTIVE FIRE broke out at about four o'clock last Saturday morning at 53 Shoe Lane, City, the premises of Messrs. Wells & Richardson, wholesale chemists, and makers of the well-known "diamond" dyes. The fire originated in the upper floor of a six-floored warehouse, and when the fire alarm and a special messenger to the street station in Farringdon Street had brought up the firemen, the flames had assumed an alarming aspect. Unfortunately a strong wind was blowing in an easterly direction, and the fire quickly spread to the adjoining premises of Messrs H. H. Warner & Co., 47 Farringdon Street, the makers of "Warner's Safe Cure." The fire raged fiercely in the upper storeys of both buildings, and gradually, notwithstanding the determined efforts of the firemen, descended into the lower storeys.

About five o'clock, however, the efforts of the firemen were successful and the fire was got under. Both buildings are five storeys high, and completely gutted, the contents being burned out and both roofs off. The cause of the fire is unknown. Amongst the property belonging to Mr. Warner which has been destroyed is a valuable picture of the Falls of Niagara, and it is stated that he is not insured.

POISONED WITH WEED-KILLER.—Last week Mr. Carttar held an inquest on the body of James Izard, fifty-three, a gardener, who was poisoned by drinking in mistake for beer, in the crypt of St. Bartholomew's Church, Sydenham, a liquid known as "Smith's Weed-killer." William Henry Smith, of Louth, Lincolnshire, deposed that he was manager to Mark Smith & Co., the makers of the "weed-killer." Every package and bottle sent out was labelled and branded "Poison." The composition was a trade secret, and there were ingredients in it detrimental to life—arsenite of soda and carbolic acid. He thought a quarter of a pint would prove fatal. During the last nine years had sold about a quarter of a million gallons, and never heard of a fatal accident with it. The Coroner told Mr. Smith that the retailer should, according to the Poisons Act, label the vessel in which the liquor was contained "Poison," and left it to the jury to say whether the death was accidental, and whether any person was criminally responsible. He could not help thinking that Mr. Smith had unwittingly infringed the Act of Parliament by not labelling the liquor "Poison." In future it would be advisable to be very cautious in retailing the liquid. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence, the Coroner remarking that it exonerated Mr. Smith.

NEW SYSTEM OF MEDICAL RELIEF.—On Tuesday Sir T. Spencer Wells presided at a well-attended meeting of medical men held in the rooms of the Society of Arts. The object of the meeting was to provide a system of medical dispensaries, which would act as "reliefs" to the hospitals, by providing medical attendance and advice to those who are able and willing to pay small fees for the same—viz. to any man and his wife whose income does not exceed 30s. a week, or to a family with a maximum income of 40s. a week. The scheme would perform on a large scale what is now done by many practitioners who work on the dispensary system. Mr. Timothy Holmes moved the adoption of the scheme, which had been drawn up by a committee, and the motion was seconded by Dr. J. Grey Glover, who said that when they saw handbills issued offering medical attendance for 6d. a visit or 1s. per week, or the announcement of a children's medical fund at a grocer's shop, it was time something was done to maintain the dignity of the profession. The proposal was strenuously opposed by Dr. R. H. S. Carpenter, who had circularised Sir Andrew Clark and other leaders on the matter. Dr. Carpenter addressed the meeting at great length, and spoke so warmly in opposition to the scheme that he was called upon to resume his seat while Mr. A. Phillips Hills addressed the meeting. But Dr. Carpenter is favoured with a convenient deafness, and for a few minutes it was a contest between him and Mr. Hills who would shout the louder. Ultimately tranquillity was restored, and the motion was adopted. It was also decided to get the co-operation of hospitals with the provident dispensaries.

A DETROIT lady has sued a photographer for \$10,000 damages for distributing her photographs as an advertisement for a cosmetic.

CHEMICAL NOMENCLATURE.—"What is the matter, doctor?" asked a reporter of a well-known chemist. "I am mad; mad at chemistry and the drug business. Look here, oil of vitriol is no oil, neither are oils of turpentine and kerosene. Copperas is an iron compound and contains no copper. Salt of lemon is the extremely poisonous oxalic acid. Carbolic acid is not an acid, but an alcohol. 'Cobalt' contains none of that metal, but arsenic; soda water has no trace of soda, and sugar of lead has no sugar, cream of tartar has nothing of cream, nor milk of lime any milk. Oxygen means the acid-maker, but hydrogen is the essential element of all acids, and may contain no oxygen. German silver has no silver, and blacklead no lead. Mosaic gold is only a sulphide of tin. These are only some of the mistakes of nomenclature in our business."—*Oil, Paint, and Drug Rep.*

Provincial Reports.

Items of news, and newspapers containing matters of interest to the trade, sent to the Editor, will much oblige.

BANGOR.

MUSTARD.—On Wednesday the magistrates of this town heard evidence in support of a charge against a grocer for selling mustard adulterated with 24 per cent. of flour. The lawyer for the defence made a full statement to the magistrates of the decisions in previous cases, and showed that it was the generally-accepted opinion of medical men that the public would not use as a condiment mustard which was not mixed with a certain proportion of flour and aromatics. He also referred to the Wigton case, reported in this issue. Without calling upon witnesses for the defence, the magistrates dismissed the case.

BRADFORD.

A CHEMIST HAS AN INNINGS.—At the Borough Police Court on December 1, Percy William Metcalfe, twenty-seven, described as a chemist, of Clarendon Place, was charged with being drunk in Manchester Road. From the evidence for the prosecution it seemed that the prisoner on Wednesday afternoon entered the shop of Messrs. Parker & Co., chemists, Manchester Road, and asked to see Mr. Parker. He was told that Mr. Parker was away at dinner, whereupon he picked up several bottles of medicine and threw them about the shop, breaking a glass shelf, and altogether doing damage to the extent of 3*l*. Mr. Parker returned in time to give Metcalfe into the custody of a policeman. The prisoner in defence said that Mr. Parker kicked him, and he (the prisoner) picked up a bottle and threw it at him, and also threw one at Mr. Parker's assistant. It was absurd to say that damage to the extent of 3*l*. had been done. The magistrates, in consideration of prisoner's previous good character, imposed a fine of 40*s*., including costs, and 20*s*. for damages, with the alternative of fourteen days' imprisonment.

BRISTOL.

CHARGE OF EMBEZZLEMENT.—At the Police Court on December 2, George Kingcott was charged with embezzling several sums of money which he had received on account of his employers, Messrs. H. W. Carter & Co., mineral-water manufacturers. He had supplied goods to the Queen's Hotel, amounting in value to 1*l*. 8*s*. 6*d*., which he did not account for properly, only paying in, according to Mr. H. W. Carter, who gave evidence, 15*s*. 6*d*. of the amount. Prisoner explained that it was all a mistake, and that he had only been negligent in the manner in which he had made his book up. The case was remanded.

DARWEN.

SPIRIT OF NITROUS ETHER OR SWEET SPIRITS OF NITRE.—At the Borough Police Court on December 1, a case of considerable importance under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act was heard. The defendant, Mr. Ralph Shorrocks, chemist and druggist, of 6 Market Street, Over Darwen, was summoned for selling 3 oz. of spirit of nitrous ether which was not of proper strength. A policeman proved the purchase and that he paid 8½*d*. for the spirit. When he told the assistant that it was for analysis, the assistant consulted Mr. Shorrocks, who said he would stand by the label. The sample was divided, and one portion was examined by Dr. Campbell Brown, the analyst, who reported that he was "of opinion that the said sample contained less than two-sevenths, or about one-fourth, of the full strength when new, and much less than one-half of the minimum strength allowed after keeping, by the British Pharmacopœia of 1885." For the defence, Mr. Broadbent said that the case was one which affected not only Mr. Shorrocks, but the whole trade; and for that reason he asked the careful attention of the magistrates to what he had to say.

This was not a case of ordinary adulteration, for nothing had been added to the spirit. The fact was that there were two kinds of the spirit—one was made according to the London Pharmacopœia, and the other according to the British Pharmacopœia; and, although it might be contended that the latter was the later of the two, and must by Act of Parliament be followed, it had never been suggested that a product used for household purposes might not be made according to the London Pharmacopœia. His authority was Professor Atfield, and the only difference between the two spirits was that the one made according to the London Pharmacopœia was carried to a further distillation than the one made according to the British Pharmacopœia, and was consequently of less strength. He contended that the purchaser did not specify spirit of nitrous ether, British Pharmacopœia 1885. He asked for no particular kind. The House of Lords had struck out a clause in the Act which specified that drugs must be of British Pharmacopœia strength, and he produced catalogues of the best-known wholesale druggists, which gave two classes of spirits. A magistrate asked how he accounted for Dr. Campbell Brown specifically saying the British Pharmacopœia was the standard? Mr. Broadbent: Dr. Campbell Brown is not the Act of Parliament, and he is very often wrong. Some conversation followed regarding what the purchaser asked for, the prosecution maintaining that it was "spirit of nitrous ether." Mr. Broadbent said there were two preparations of the same name, and if the British Pharmacopœia one was not specifically stated in a prescription the weaker preparation would be given. He elicited from the prosecution that they did not consider the sale a clandestine and fraudulent transaction, and contended that the purchaser was duly informed of the nature of the article which he got. The chairman wished to know if Mr. Broadbent considered whether there was or was not a recognised standard. Mr. Broadbent: There is, for the purpose of examination at the Apothecaries' Hall, London. He then called Mr. Shorrocks who said he had been in business for thirty years as a chemist and druggist, and during the whole of that time he had sold spirit of nitrous ether. There were two products which were known throughout the trade by the same name, but the London spirit was in the larger demand, and it was safer, more agreeable to the taste, and in all respects a better thing for the public. He specially told the purchaser that by that label he would stand, and in this he was corroborated by his assistant, Mr. Henry Aspdon. The prosecution having declined to withdraw the case, Mr. Huntington said it was very clear that there was no intention to defraud. The only question that embarrassed them in coming to a decision was that of standard. If Mr. Shorrocks were disposed to pay the costs they would dismiss the case; but he thought in future it would be advisable to accept the standard given by Dr. Campbell Brown. Mr. Broadbent: There is no suggestion that in this matter Mr. Shorrocks was not acting perfectly honestly and above board. The Clerk: Certainly not, but the bench are of opinion that it is better to adhere to the British Pharmacopœia.

HANLEY.

A NEW METHOD OF TAKING LAUDANUM was demonstrated here last week by a butcher named Cooper. Anxious to perform on himself what he has in his lifetime done for many of the brute creation, he thought of laudanum as a pleasant means; but the all-powerful man in blue had a different opinion on the subject, and while he was taking him to a place where a forcible argument would convince him of his error, Cooper diligently chewed a piece of paper saturated with the opiate. The paper afterwards disturbed his digestion considerably, and that was all.

HULL.

A CHEMIST VICTIMISED.—At the Hull Police Court last week (before Mr. E. C. Twiss, stipendiary magistrate), Richard John Waterland, accountant, was charged with forging and uttering a bill of exchange for 35*l*. 10*s*., with intent to defraud John Hutt, chemist and druggist, of Waterloo Street, on September 13. The evidence was somewhat conflicting, and prisoner was remanded without bail.

KESWICK.

FIRE.—On Sunday night a fire was discovered on the premises of Mr. M. J. Henderson, chemist, Main Street, Keswick. The family had retired for the night, but about twelve o'clock Mrs. Henderson thought there was a smell as of something burning, and after a search it was found that it proceeded from the rear of the fireplace. The fire-brigade was called and the fire put out before much damage was done.

LEEDS.

THE SUSPICIOUS DEATH.—The adjourned inquest respecting the death of Albert Laister, aged thirty-six, was held on December 1, when Mr. Bothamley reported the result of the analysis of the internal organs of the deceased, which showed no signs of poison. The jury returned a verdict accordingly.

NOTTINGHAM.

NARCOTIC POISONING.—At an inquest held last week on the body of a child named Fetterplace, one year and ten months old, the coroner (Mr. A. Browne) asked the attention of the jury to the fact that the paregoric with which the child had been poisoned had been purchased at a small shop and had not been properly labelled. The father of the child stated that it, having had whooping cough, together with inflammation, had been attended by Mr. Warriner, chemist, and Mr. Geraty, surgeon. He measured out a dose of medicine for the child, which was given, and shortly after they found that it was the wrong medicine, the bottle having contained a halfpennyworth of paregoric and a halfpennyworth of laudanum, which his wife had used for a cough. Mrs. Fetterplace said that the bottle produced contained medicine obtained from Mr. Geraty about a month ago. About the same time she bought the paregoric and laudanum from Mrs. Handley, of Mortimer Street, who had some in her house for her own use. At first Mrs. Handley did not want to sell it, but subsequently did so. Mr. T. Geraty, surgeon, deposed to having attended the child. He believed the cause of death was laudanum-poisoning. Mrs. Handley said that she had a conversation with Mrs. Fetterplace, in the course of which she recommended the use of paregoric and laudanum for her cold. Witness demurred to letting her have it, but afterwards sold her a pennyworth. She bought the mixture from Mr. North, St. James' Street, with whom she had traded about twenty-six years, for her own personal use. Verdict, "Accidentally poisoned."

NORTHFLEET, KENT.

SUICIDE OF A CHEMIST.—On Wednesday Mr. Andrew Robson, a chemist of this town, committed suicide by taking a poisonous quantity of morphia. The act is attributed to bad trade, from which the deceased has recently suffered.

SEAHAM-HARBOUR.

SALE OF CHEMICAL WORKS.—It is reported that some well-known gentlemen have purchased the Seaham Chemical Works, Seaham-Harbour, formerly for many years carried on by Messrs. Watson, Kipling & Co., and that they intend to extend the works.

SHEFFIELD.

THE EPIDEMIC.—During November 180 cases of small-pox were treated in the borough hospital. The disease appears now to be abating in Sheffield, but is spreading in the mining villages around. At Wath-on-Dearne forty cases broke out almost simultaneously. They were traceable to an importation from Sheffield.

AN ENTERPRISING VENDOR of specialities (his own manufacture) has enlisted Government aid to persuade Sheffielders that they are ill, and that protection is the thing to cure them. He uses as a rostrum a splendidly-equipped wagonette, on which appears in large gilt letters, "With the authority of Her Majesty's Commissioners of Inland Revenue."

A CHEMIST IN TROUBLE.—At the Police Court Blanchard Frederick Sellors, chemist and druggist, of Tewkesbury, and a large property-owner at Matlock Bath, was charged with being on the licensed premises of the Rutland Arms Hotel during prohibited hours. From the evidence, it appeared that Mr. Sellors had driven up to the hotel about 11.30 P.M. and called for refreshments, which he got. The magistrates imposed a fine and costs—17s. 6d.

WIGTON.

THE MUSTARD CASE.—The charge against a grocer, under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, for selling Coleman's mustard, which the county analyst, Dr. Montgomery, of Whitehaven, stated was adulterated with 30 per cent. of farina, came up for settlement before the magistrates last Saturday. We reported the facts in our issue of November 26, and it will be remembered that Mr. Francis Sutton, of Norwich, gave it as his opinion that the mustard was ordinary table-mustard, containing only 9 per cent. of wheaten flour, not potato-starch, as Dr. Montgomery alleged. The magistrates decided to send a third sample of the mustard to Somerset House, and adjourned the case for the report. This report was now submitted: it stated that the sample was free from potato-starch, and that it contained wheat flour to an amount not exceeding 10 per cent. This was a recognised diluent. The bench, therefore, dismissed the case, without costs.

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.—On Friday, December 2, William Merchant, a labourer, purchased in different shops six pennyworth of laudanum, and drank the whole at a draught. Dr. Robertson, Castle Street, followed up the dose with an emetic, and sent the would-be suicide to the infirmary, where he was speedily "bailed out" and restored to his senses.

CARLUKE.

BETWEEN Saturday night and Sunday morning last the shop of Mr. John Hinksman, chemist, Market Place, Carlisle, was entered by means of false keys, and a small sum of money and some postage-stamps stolen.

EDINBURGH.

EXPLOSION IN A CHEMICAL MANUFACTORY.—Between ten and eleven o'clock on Tuesday forenoon an explosion took place in one of the departments of Messrs. T. & H. Smith & Co.'s chemical works at Heriot Hill, Edinburgh. A retort or still in a galvanised-iron outhouse exploded, and blew out the side of the house with great force, throwing the contents of the still along the line of the North British Railway. Although many hands were employed about the place at the time, fortunately no one was injured.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY met on Monday for the first time this session. Lord McLaren delivered an address, and afterwards presented the Victoria Jubilee Medal to Sir William Thomson. Papers by Professor Piazzi Smyth and Sir William Thomson were read, after which Professor Tait read one by Dr. A. B. Griffiths on a series of conclusions at which he had arrived in the course of researches on micro-organisms. The conclusions were that microbes were really the cause of certain contagious diseases, that in many cases these were capable of being destroyed by various germicides, and that the most rational method of treating contagious diseases was by the injection of some germicidal agent.

GLASGOW.

SUICIDE WITH PRUSSIC ACID.—Mr. Robert Wetherspoon, sixty-one, iron merchant, of West Nile Street, and a prominent member of the pig-iron ring, committed suicide in his office on Saturday by swallowing a quantity of prussic acid. The deceased had recently lost heavily by speculations in iron, and was greatly depressed.

FIRES.—On December 1 a fire broke out in the shop of James Houston, oil and colour dealer, 753 Gallowgate. The fire looked very serious at one time, but it was got under after 350l. damage was done.—The oil and paint works of Messrs. Blacklock & McArthur were also totally destroyed by fire on Thursday, the damage being estimated at 12,000l.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

ELECTION OF ANNUITANTS.

A MEETING was held in the Society's house on December 2, at 12 noon, for the purpose of electing six annuitants. Scrutineers were appointed, and shortly after four o'clock they completed their labours, when it was found that the poll stood as under. The numbers of votes are in parentheses:—

McIntyre, Jessie (4,211). Aged 72. Newcastle-on-Tyne. Widow of Peter Slater McIntyre, of Tweedmouth, a life member from 1869, and a subscriber to the Benevolent Fund for sixteen years.

Goadsby, Elizabeth (3,763). Aged 68. Salford. Widow of Francis Goadsby, of Manchester, a registered chemist and druggist in business before August 1, 1868, who died in April, 1882.

Pownall, Lydia Sarah (3,360). Aged 67. Clapton. Widow of John Pownall, of Manchester, a member of the Society from 1842 until his death in 1857. Applicant carried on her husband's business until 1872, when it was sold.

Baker, Sarah E. (3,242). Aged 52. Finsbury Park, N. Widow of Frederick Bond Baker, of Dalston, a registered chemist and druggist, in business before August 1, 1868.

Collins, Maria (3,154). Aged 72. Sydenham. Widow of John Richard Collins, of Clapham, an annuitant from 1885 to 1887, who was for forty-four years previously a member of the Society.

Sowter, Emily Sarah (2,957). Aged 53. Tottenham. Widow of George Sowter, a registered chemist and druggist, in business before August 1, 1868. Husband was in business in London for about ten years, and at his death in 1881 applicant was left with six children.

Jones, Augusta (2,332). Aged 59. Marlborough. Widow of Charles Jones, a registered chemist and druggist, in business before August 1, 1868. Husband was in business twenty-four years at Cowes and Marlborough, and died in 1878. Applicant continued to carry on the business until 1884, but was unsuccessful.

Spendelow, Mary E. (1,241). Aged 57. Widow of Richard William Spendelow, of Liverpool, a registered chemist and druggist, in business before August 1, 1863.

The President declared the first six to be elected, and moved a vote of thanks to the scrutineers.

COUNCIL MEETING.

The Council met on Wednesday in 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., at 11 A.M., Mr. Carteighe in the chair. All the other members except Mr. Evans were present. After the confirmation of the minutes a number of elections took place.

ELECTION OF ANNUITANTS.

The result of the voting (reported above) was formally brought before the Council.

ELECTION OF EXAMINERS.

The Council went into committee to consider the merits of those who were proposed as members of the board for England and Wales, there being one vacancy, due to the retirement of Mr. Linford. On resuming, the President announced that a ballot had been taken, and that the new board would consist of the following:—Messrs. J. B. Barnes (London), T. P. Blunt (Shrewsbury), J. W. Bowen (London), O. Corder (Norwich), G. C. Druce (Oxford), J. Fletcher (Cheltenham), S. Gale (London), A. W. Gerrard (London), T. E. Greenish (London), F. Ransom (Hitchin), W. H. Symons (London), A. E. Tanner (Tottenham), G. S. Taylor (London), and J. C. Thresh (Buxton). Mr. Druce takes the place of Mr. Linford. With that exception the members are re-elected.

The Council then proceeded to the election of the Board for Scotland. The President read a letter from the assistant secretary to the secretary of the Society informing him that at the meeting of the Executive held on November 16 the present members of the Board were re-nominated. In reply to Mr. Bottle, the President said that the date of the assistant

secretary's letter was December 5; the meeting had been held on November 16.

Then followed a long discussion on

THE NORTH BRITISH BRANCH.

Mr. BOTTLE asked Mr. Baildon, the chairman of the Executive, if any instructions had been given to the assistant secretary to report to the Council any business transacted at the meeting.

Mr. BAILDON replied that he had done so, and that if the intimation had not been given in proper form it was unintentional. He understood that the letter had come late, but that was owing to a slight misunderstanding.

Mr. BOTTLE considered that this explanation was not satisfactory. One of the duties of the Executive was to nominate fit and proper persons whom the Council might appoint to act as examiners. The Executive had met on November 16, and made the nomination, the first notice of what had been done being given through a trade journal of the same week, and in the following week a report of the meeting in a condensed form appeared in the *Pharmaceutical Journal*. It was, he considered, the duty of the Executive to keep the Council well informed of this matter; they should have conveyed all the facts in the case, such as related to the eligibility of the nominees so far as age, &c., was concerned, so that the Council might know that they were acting within their constitutional powers. He asked Mr. Baildon if all the candidates were under the limit of age.

Mr. BAILDON: The members of the Board as nominated this year are all under the age [65].

Mr. RICHARDSON asked if there was no authorised reporter of the meetings of the Executive, to which the President replied in the negative. He then asked Mr. Bottle what trade journal he referred to.

Mr. BOTTLE said it was *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*. At the meeting of the Executive a resolution had been come to to make the meetings public. Mr. Watt, one of the members, made the remark [quoting from *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*] that "the Executive were elected by the Scottish members and associates in Scotland, and how were they, their constituents, to know what they were doing unless their proceedings were reported?" He (the speaker) maintained that they were far more interested in the proceedings than the constituents of the Executive. The Executive was a committee of the Council, and if they did not report to the Council they would find themselves in difficulties. The fact was that the business transactions of the Executive were loose, and he thought that the chairman should see that the reports were properly made. The letter of the assistant secretary was not a proper report to the Council; it was not addressed to the Council at all, and did not contain the information as to age which the Council should have before it. He hoped these matters of business would be done better in future.

Mr. BAILDON took exception to the statement that the Executive was a committee of the Council. (Mr. Bottle and Mr. Schacht, interposing, asked if Mr. Baildon said that the Executive was not a committee.) Mr. Baildon, continuing, said: No, it is not a committee; it is an elected body. It was told by the constitution to report to the Council annually, or when required. He failed to see that the Executive had transgressed that rule in any way. He admitted that there was an omission on the part of the assistant secretary, but as soon as that had been discovered it was rectified. His fellow members should note the position that the Executive were put in in this matter of reporting. At the last general meeting there was a unanimous decision that the proceedings of the Executive should be reported, and if they had refused in any way to accede to this the members who did so would become unpopular. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BOTTLE said that he did not object to the published reports. His point was that the matter had not been properly reported to the Council.

The PRESIDENT carried this a little farther by remarking that the nomination of examiners had been made public before the Council had the opportunity of considering the matter.

Mr. BAILDON again pointed out that the Executive had only to report annually.

Mr. BUTT: "Or more frequently if required."

Mr. BAILDON: That is not so stated. We have not been asked for a special report.

The PRESIDENT again explained Mr. Bottle's point, by saying that what was required was a formal report to the Council, whereas what had been done was to report the proceedings in the journals. It would, he thought, have been at least courteous, if not constitutional, to let the Council know of any new things, such as reporting.

Mr. BAILDON said he had always understood that reports were only to be made to the Council annually. He did not understand what Mr. Bottle wanted. How could he prevent reports getting into the journals? It was well known to the President and Vice-President that the question of reporting was coming up, and if they had been there they might have prevented mistakes happening.

Mr. BOTTLE remarked that what he wished to impress upon Mr. Baidon was that the Council had no knowledge whether any of the gentlemen who had been nominated were debarred by age; and he, as chairman of the Executive, should have instructed the assistant secretary to give the Council full particulars. If the transactions of the Executive were so important as to require public reports, it was all the more reason why the Council should be informed as soon as possible of what took place at the meetings. For instance, this question of admitting outsiders to the meetings: the Council might have something to say about that, and it was not proper that they should have to go to a trade journal to know what they were doing in Edinburgh.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said that he had received a notice of the meeting in the ordinary course, and he now felt that he ought to have attended it. But it was an expensive matter going to Edinburgh, and that was a consideration which had to be taken. He felt that Mr. Bottle's observations were quite just, and that reports of the meetings should be sent to the Council directly.

Mr. RICHARDSON recommended the appointment of an official reporter in Edinburgh, as in London, to report as much of the meetings as was thought necessary. The report which had appeared in the trade journal was not courteous to the Council. It reminded him of a similar case in Leicester, where the particulars of a certain case got into the newspapers before they had come before the magistrates. (Laughter.)

Mr. HAMPSON thought it desirable to close the discussion, so that nothing might be said which would hurt the feelings of those who did the Society's work in Scotland. It would be well if they entered into the spirit which actuated their Scottish colleagues. He felt that the whole matter really hung upon a report being published by a trade journal. He did not approve of Mr. Bottle's remarks regarding the age of the examiners. That had never been considered before. This discussion was entirely a question of the publication of the report in the trade journal.

Mr. SCHACHT was not quite satisfied with Mr. Baidon's reply, and more especially when he declared that the Executive was not a committee of the Council. The fact that the proceedings were published the other day before they appeared in the *Pharmaceutical Journal* brought them to the question, Was the Executive acting quite in accordance with the constitution which had been formulated in November of last year? Referring to the constitution (THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, November 6, 1886), he maintained that it was a committee of the Council. The second clause stated that "in order to assist the Council in its management of the Branch an Executive of not more than twenty-one members shall be formed, to be called the Executive of the North British Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain." From this and other clauses he argued it was apparent that the Executive was related to the Council. The whole tone of the constitution was that the Executive was a committee of the Council, and was not an independent body. At the last meeting of the Council this matter of reporting had been referred to by Mr. Bottle, and it was then pointed out that it would be unconstitutional to report the meetings of the Executive before the Council received reports. He had understood that Mr. Baidon had acquiesced in that view. The gentlemen in the North must have been aware of that conversation, but their next proceeding was to take the matter entirely in their own hands, and to act as an independent body. He thought the matter sufficiently serious

to demand a settlement now. The position was exactly as he had predicted, that these gentlemen in the North would act independently. They had done so, and now Mr. Baidon said that the Executive was not a committee of the Council. That was proof of the independent feeling which existed. He said all this in support of Mr. Bottle, for he felt that the resolution to introduce reporters was unconstitutional, and, without stirring up strife, he wished to have it settled as speedily as possible whether the Executive was independent or not.

Mr. SYMES said that Mr. Schacht was carrying the matter farther. They should not go into this question of reporters. It was distinctly stated in the constitution that the Executive was to report annually, and he maintained with Mr. Baidon that this did not mean that a report of each meeting of the Executive should be sent. He would be sorry if the whole question of their relations with Scotland were opened up again. It had occupied their attention for a long time, and they had virtually buried the hatchet. As far as he could judge the Executive had acted in the best spirit, and it was their duty to take the matter in the same way. Moreover, he did not approve of their putting all the blame on Mr. Baidon; he was only there as the spokesman of the Council, and they knew that he was desirous of conducting the business in Scotland in a proper manner.

Mr. BAILDON explained that the Council had not asked for a special report of the last meeting of the Executive. The whole affair was a misunderstanding, but it would easily be put right. He assured the Council that no slight was meant to them.

Mr. SOUTHALL agreed with Mr. Symes. The Executive seemed to have done all right. It was better to keep the constituents informed of what was going on, and if they prevented them sending reports to the trade journal, no interest would be taken in the proceedings.

Mr. RICHARDSON considered that the reporting was an important matter, and again pressed his suggestion regarding an official reporter.

Mr. BAILDON asked the President if the assistant secretary's communication regarding the nominations was not quite formal.

The PRESIDENT, in his reply, said that the assistant secretary had written a letter to the secretary, but the Council was not referred to by the Executive. Moreover, the names of the nominees had been published before they got to the Council. He went on to speak of the position of the Executive in reporting its proceedings, and he could not understand how in this instance a report was published of such an important matter as the nomination of examiners before any communication whatever had been received by the Council. If the Executive went on in that way he did not envy the position of the chairman, if it was not convenient for the President or Vice-President to attend the meetings. He asked Mr. Baidon if he did not consider the Executive an ally of the Council. [Mr. Baidon: Yes.] Continuing, he remarked that he was glad to hear that, and he went on to describe the proceedings at the meeting of the Executive. The reporting matter was the last subject to be considered, yet a report of what had taken place before that had been published.

Mr. HAMPSON asked if the question of reporting had been mentioned to the President and Vice-President in the notice of the meeting.

The President did not quite know, but the Vice-President and others thought it was.

Mr. HAMPSON said if that was so it removed the onus from the chairman, and the responsibility rested on some other person. (Laughter.)

The PRESIDENT was quite willing to take a share in it, but he really thought when he got the notice that the matter of reporting would be settled differently, else he might have attended. He would see to it in future.

Mr. ATKINS did not see how the President was responsible. He hoped that they would not now say anything which would reopen the question. Mr. Baidon had admitted that the assistant secretary had committed an error, but that had been amended. He asked if the Executive maintained that its business could be reported independently. Was it not the same as a committee in Bloomsbury Square? He should like to be clear on those points, for the discussion did not refer to the general question.

The VICE-PRESIDENT thought it would be a pity to go into the question of what the Executive was. Their duty had been clearly indicated.

The PRESIDENT'S definition was, however, given. He said: It is an independently appointed body, but a dependent committee. That Mr. Baildon had admitted. The point of the discussion was that Mr. Baildon should have taken steps to report fully the proceedings of the Executive to the Council, and see that the report was not made public before the matters to which it referred had been considered by the Council. He could not understand how reporters happened to be present before the business regarding reporting came on, for the published report was antecedent to the business. He had never in the whole annals of such matters seen anything so flagrant as this.

Mr. RICHARDSON pacifically remarked that nothing should be said about that.

Mr. SCHACHT demanded a straight reply to his previous question. Did Mr. Baildon consider the Executive independent of the Council? [Most of the members objected to this. "Don't answer," was the common comment.] He insisted upon the matter being clearly understood.

Mr. SYMES protested against Mr. Baildon being called upon to answer for the whole Executive. He considered the question quite out of order, and so the chairman ruled it.

Mr. HAMPSON moved that the Council should proceed to business.

Mr. Cross seconded, but it was the general opinion that Mr. Baildon should be allowed to reply. In doing so he remarked that he was not quite clear as to the form of the censure. The fact was that there was no outsider present at the meeting, and he was not responsible for anyone reporting the proceedings. The one who had done so apparently thought that the whole thing might be reported. He (the speaker) may have misread the constitution, but if it was expected that each meeting should be reported to the Council it should be so stated, and he did not think that there would be any objection to that. They reported annually, and thought that that was all that was necessary. He quite admitted the extreme awkwardness of the names of the examiners appearing in the trade journal.* In future the Executive could go into committee when such matters came up for settlement. It seemed to him unfortunate that the person who reported the meeting had not used his judgment in keeping out this matter of the examiners.

The PRESIDENT: Do I understand that no reporter was present?

Mr. BAILDON: No. The report must have emanated from some one present at the meeting—one of themselves. But he was not at all responsible. He was quite clear now that reports should be sent to the Council direct.

The matter then dropped, having occupied the attention of the Council for about an hour and a half. A ballot was then taken for the election of

THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SCOTLAND.

This is a proceeding which is rarely, if ever, done in public, but it was a very formal matter, and if any names were scratched out of the voting lists that did not transpire, the following having been declared unanimously elected:—

Messrs. Inglis Clark (Edinburgh), D. B. Dott (Edinburgh), Adam Gibson (Leven), William Gilmour (Edinburgh), A. Kinninmont (Glasgow), Thomas Maben (Hawick), John Nesbit (Portobello), and J. B. Stephenson (Edinburgh). These gentlemen hold office at present.

VOTES OF THANKS

were unanimously passed to the Boards of Examiners for their services during the year, and a special vote to Mr. Linford, who has acted as an examiner for seventeen years. In putting these to the meeting the President expressed the hope that the intelligent interest that Mr. Linford had taken in the Society's affairs would be continued.

* It will be found on reference to the report in our issue of November 19, page 634, that this statement is not quite correct. We simply stated that "the present Board of Examiners for Scotland was unanimously nominated for re-election." In the official report it was also stated that "it was unanimously resolved that the present members of the Board of Examiners for Scotland be renominated for 1888."—*Ed. C. & D.*

THE EXAMINATION MONTHS

in London and Edinburgh were fixed for 1888, there being no change. This decision was arrived at after some discussion in committee about the matter.

FINANCE.

The report of the Finance Committee was read by the secretary. There was little of an unusual character about it, except another vote of 1,000*l.* for building purposes, and the payment of 128*l.* 1*s.* of costs for the prosecution of the Leith Dépôt Company. These were mentioned by the President when he put the report to the meeting.

Mr. BUTT suggested that 500*l.* of a 700*l.* surplus on the Benevolent Fund should be invested; but this suggestion did not meet with favour.

After Mr. Symes had asked a question in committee referring to an item in the report it was approved of.

THE BENEVOLENT FUND.

The committee had considered ten cases, in two of which they recommended grants of 15*l.* each, three of 10*l.*, and two of 5*l.* The others were "not entertained."

After some remarks from the Vice-President and Messrs. Robbins and Schacht, the report was adopted.

LIBRARY, MUSEUM, LABORATORY, AND HOUSE COMMITTEE.

The librarian, curator, lecturers, and professors had submitted satisfactory reports to the committee. The Research Laboratory matter had been discussed, and a draft scheme considered, amended, and adjourned for further consideration. The practical pharmacy scheme had also been considered at several meetings, Mr. Ince advising the committee. It was ultimately resolved, on his recommendation, to set aside the Octagon Laboratory, and to fit it up for demonstrations in a small way, the class meeting twice a week (Monday and Wednesday); fee, 2*l.* 2*s.* per session of three months. It was thought that the Octagon Laboratory was better adapted for the purpose than any other room in the building.

Mr. HAMPSON said that he did not think that the report was a faithful record of what had been done regarding the Research Laboratory.

The PRESIDENT remarked that no resolution had been come to, and he was not bound to go into details in the report.

Mr. HAMPSON: Before you put it I want to say something.

Mr. ATKINS hoped it would be taken in committee.

The PRESIDENT then put the report to the meeting. The chief business which the committee had to consider was, he said, the matters regarding practical pharmacy and the Research Laboratory. The latter was deferred in order to consider details. As to practical pharmacy, Mr. Ince was of opinion that they should begin to teach the subject in a small way at first, in order to see how students supported it. The great difficulty in teaching it on a large scale, or in such a way as had been contemplated by the original motion, was the matter of time. There were few students who would give the time necessary for a complete course of instruction in all the branches of practical pharmacy. They, therefore, resolved to supply the deficiency in the present curriculum, and this would be tried for three months. The knowledge which would be imparted would be such as young men want; anything else would be what those who have passed the examinations would take up.

Mr. SYMES said that, although the scheme now proposed fell short of what he had urged after going thoroughly into the matter, he had come to the conclusion that the proposals now made were as fair as could be made at present. The demonstrations would test the matter, and if it were found that the students liked the class, and that it was successful, they would be able to judge next year at this time whether they could develop it further.

Mr. HAMPSON said that at the committee they had had a complete discussion regarding the Research Laboratory. He had used the word "faithful" in complaining about the report, but perhaps he should have said "complete." They had discussed the financial means available for the scheme, and the President had brought forward figures which showed exactly the financial position of the Society. He considered that these were very important, and he expected that they would be given in the report.

The PRESIDENT said that when the committee came to a conclusion of its labours the matter would be reported.

Mr. ATKINS was glad to hear Mr. Symes express his approval of the practical pharmacy scheme. If it grew the Council would do more, for this was just the work that the Society, as a teaching body, ought to do.

The report was then adopted.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS.

A matter in reference to the new building was considered in committee, after which the President read a letter from Mr. Harrison, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia, thanking the Council for an excellent assortment of specimens which had been sent to the museum of the society at Adelaide. A letter in similar terms from the secretary of the society at Melbourne was also read. The report of the General Purposes Committee was considered *in camera*. Its contents did not transpire.

SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.

LONDON SECTION.

ON Monday night an exceptionally large and brilliant audience assembled in the Chemical Society's Rooms to hear Professor Dewar (president of the society) lecture on "The New Weldon-Pechiney Process for the Manufacture of Chlorine from Magnesium Chloride." Amongst those present were Sir Frederick Abel, Sir Henry Roscoe, Professor Armstrong, Dr. C. R. A. Wright, and such noted alkali manufacturers as Dr. Hewitt (Brunner, Mond & Co.), Messrs. Chance, Muspratt, Gamble, and Swan. Mr. A. E. Fletcher, inspector of alkali works, and Mr. C. T. Kingzett were also present and took part in the discussion. Mr. David Howard was in the chair, and after the usual preliminaries called upon Professor Dewar to deliver

THE LECTURE.

At the outset the Professor said that he could not possibly touch all the points of his subject within a reasonable time. He would therefore select those of greater importance, especially those which had to do with the engineering part of the process. He had provided excellent diagrams of the apparatus in use at M. Pechiney's works at Salindres. There have been considerable modifications of the original process proposed by Weldon, but since 1884 nearly all the patents which have been taken out have been for machinery. We gave a brief description of the process in our issue of July 31, 1886. As will be seen from what follows, the process now in use, though essentially the same, differs in some details. The first stage of the process is the manufacture of magnesium chloride from the waste hydrochloric acid and magnesia. The latter is a highly heated oxide which acts slowly; it is added in slight excess, the solution allowed to clear, is decanted and concentrated in a vessel which ensures that its contents are thoroughly rotated. When a certain point is reached a quantity of magnesium oxide is added to the concentrated magnesium chloride; the mixture becomes solid, and is thoroughly broken up, by rotating metal spokes, into a mass of lumps of magnesium oxychloride (Mg_2OCl_2). This is then dried in an ingenious apparatus consisting of a long chamber in which a series of trucks run. Each of these (about a dozen may be in the chamber at a time) receives a charge of the wet oxychloride and is moved slowly along the chamber, so that by the time it reaches the end the oxychloride is practically dry. During the drying the amount of water in the oxychloride decreases from an average of 45 per cent. to about 29, and the percentage of chlorine increases proportionately, it being found, however (see THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, July 31, 1886), that the more water there is drawn off the more hydrochloric acid is disengaged by decomposition of the oxychloride.

The next part of the operation is that which has presented the greatest practical difficulties. In this stage the object is to decompose the oxychloride by means of heat and the influence of oxygen. The heat must be intense and steady, hence the origin of the difficulties. The plan which has been adopted at Salindres is to construct a furnace of brick with

immensely thick walls—in fact, the furnace is a series of chambers, 3 in. by 3 ft. by 9 ft. The various partitions of brick are heated from the side by means of a blast of Siemens gas; the heat is applied gradually so that as much as possible may be stored up by the brickwork, and when the desired temperature is attained the heating portion of the furnace is removed, and is actually used for heating other furnaces or units. The oxychloride is now dropped in, the furnace closed, and at once decomposition begins. The principal result is that hydrochloric acid is given off, and the air decomposes this into chlorine and water. But in practice the reaction is not complete, and chlorine, steam, and hydrochloric acid are the gases which are given off. Instead of condensing the latter in a coke tower, it is done in an ingenious condenser consisting of layers of glass tubes through which cold water is continually flowing. These tubes were at first laid horizontally, but it was found that in this position a little air was apt to get into them, thereby causing breakage; but now the tubes are laid at a slight incline, and it is found that this answers admirably. The decomposition goes on in the furnace, precautions being taken to moderate the supply of air. The following table represents

The Decomposition of Dry Magnesium Chloride.

Weight of Chlorine charged	Per cent. of Cl in residue	Per 100 of Chlorine Charged			Per 100 Cl Disengaged		Weight of Cl per Operation	Maximum of Chlorine in the Gas
		Total Cl free and combined	Free Cl	HCl	Free Cl	HCl		
Kilos.							Kilos.	
415	17.40	82.40	42.40	40.00	51.40	48.60	176	6.25
408	19.00	81.00	42.90	38.10	52.96	47.04	175	6.45
414	16.00	84.00	44.68	39.32	53.20	46.80	185	7.15
423	15.00	85.00	45.73	39.27	53.20	46.80	190	7.78

The whole of the oxychloride is not decomposed in the furnace, and when the residual charge is taken out the lumps of undecomposed oxychloride are picked out and used over again. The chlorine as it comes off from the furnace is used at Salindres directly for making chlorate. Professor Dewar had got determinations made of the chlorine value of the furnace gas at different periods, and found that in the first hour $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., in the second hour 6 per cent., in the third 5 per cent., in the fourth $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and in the fifth $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. were the figures. These gave a curve of the dissociation, or reversible action type, and this had led the lecturer to study the reaction; for although he might be able to tell the constitution of the latest synthetical body, yet he was hazy about such a simple thing as this. (Laughter.) It was generally considered that the decomposition of magnesium oxychloride in presence of air, which Weldon proposed to utilise in this process, was a new reaction; but Professor Dewar had found that Davy was well acquainted with the properties of the salt, and so was Graham.

He then proceeded to describe the experiments which he had made to prove that the reaction which takes place in the furnace is a reversible one, and showed an experiment. A porcelain tube was packed with a mixture of magnesium oxide and magnesium chloride, and placed in a combustion furnace, the temperature being exceedingly high. Chlorine was then passed through the tube, and the gas which came off was collected and was found to be oxygen. The temperature was then lowered, and oxygen passed through the tube, when chlorine came off in such abundance as to be distinctly appreciable in the lecture-hall by smell. The theory which might be deduced from the experiment was that the water given off in presence of the highly-heated magnesium chloride decomposed the latter into oxide with formation of hydrochloric acid, and finally that the air decomposed the acid into chlorine and water.

He then proceeded to contrast the old Weldon chlorine process and the new. This was really the most crucial point of the lecture, and here the audience paid marked attention to what Professor Dewar had to say. The following is the cost of working the new process at Salindres, the price being for 1 ton of chlorine, 6 tons being produced per day. The cost of working the same in England (with cheaper coal) is also given:—

	<i>Salindres.</i>	<i>England.</i>
Coal	48	24
Labour	45	45
Repairs, &c. ..	20	20
Magnesium chloride ..	5	5
<i>Franco</i>	118	94

It was also stated that by the new process from 78 to 80 per cent. of chlorine is obtained where 33 per cent. is only obtained at present; further that, although the initial cost and maintenance of the apparatus are much greater than in the old process, that is not of so great consideration to the ammonia-soda manufacturer, whose apparatus is very costly; he thought, moreover, that the process was particularly applicable to the case of Stassfurt, where immense quantities of magnesium chloride are run to waste. If it was taken up there he thought the future of the Leblanc process was very black, for he had calculated what the cost of producing chlorine in the three places would be, and taking everything into consideration the following was the result (per ton of chlorine):—

England (old process)	£130
Salindres (Weldon-Pechiney process) ..	79
Stassfurt	50

It is clear, therefore, that what has been foreshadowed will take place, viz., that large quantities of chlorine will be produced, so that less will be required; consequently that less soda will be produced by the Leblanc manufacturers, and that the happiness of the ammonia-soda makers will correspondingly increase. In concluding the lecturer paid a high compliment to M. Pechiney for the labour, zeal, and ingenuity which he had devoted to carrying out Mr. Weldon's project.

A long discussion was initiated by the chairman, who, amongst other things, said that the process showed the importance of engineering skill in technical chemistry, and the impossibility of imparting such knowledge to boys of fourteen. Sir Henry Roscoe followed; he considered that the process and apparatus were amongst the most skilful which he had ever seen. He asked if it was possible to use gas containing so little chlorine as that from the furnace. He quite agreed that it would be no good to teach boys of fourteen such knowledge as that required in this process; but they had to teach the masters as well as the men, and to keep pace with their foreign competitors. The fact that Mr. Weldon, an Englishman, had accomplished so much in the alkali industry was a proof that Englishmen are all right if they are properly educated. Sir F. Abel and Mr. Chance followed; then Mr. Muspratt made an interesting speech full of confidence for the Leblanc manufacturers. He pointed out that the cost of the magnesia was small—5 francs out of 94 on the lowest scale—so that the cheapness of magnesia in Stassfurt would not affect the price much. Such a condenser as was described had been used by Mr. Deacon, but the tubes were placed vertically, and always broke. He did not take a desponding view of the chemical trade of England; if there was better education of the middle classes we could cope with all competitors. The average strength of the chlorine used in making bleaching powder was 4 per cent., the highest 8 to 9 per cent., the lowest 1 per cent. The average in the Deacon process was 9 per cent. Mr. Gamble followed in not so cheerful a strain, and Dr. Hewitt made some temperate remarks on the process, maintaining that all progress in the alkali industry should be considered in relation to the ultimate good of the whole community, not whether it would pinch the shoe of one maker or the other. He corroborated the remarks of Mr. Muspratt regarding the chlorine strength of gas which might be used for bleach, adding that if all traces of carbonic acid gas and water could be eliminated the last trace of chlorine would be absorbed. The discussion was continued by Messrs. Anderson, Fletcher, Kingzett, and Swan. Professor Dewar replied.

GLASGOW AND SCOTTISH SECTION.

THE second meeting of the fifth session of this section was held in the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, Edinburgh, on Tuesday evening, at half-past seven. Mr. E. C. C. Stanford, F.C.S., presided, and there was a fair attendance.

The first paper brought before the Society was on

THE SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL FOR MANUFACTURING PURPOSES.

By D. B. Dott, F.R.S.E., Pharmaceutical Chemist.

Summarising the conditions under which alcohol is used for manufacturing purposes, he said that all ethyl alcohol, for whatever purpose used, must pay duty. The admixture of 10 per cent. of naphtha, which rendered it available for use duty free for manufacturing purposes, spoiled it for many things. The naphtha or methyl alcohol used must be very crude, and as a sample had to be submitted to the Excise authorities, they would not pass it unless it were bad enough. It contained ketones and pyridine bases. Much might be written on the sufferings of manufacturers in using this villainous mixture. Methyl alcohol is more expensive than ethyl, and, apart from duty, methylated spirit is dearer than pure spirit. The 10 per cent. addition of methyl is so much waste. Methylated spirit cannot be used for extractions and recrystallisations. It is not ill adapted for the making of chloroform, for the product can be purified. It would be better made from pure alcohol, however, as then no suspicion whatever could attach to it. Ether prepared from methylated spirit was not so safe for anæsthetic purposes as that from pure spirit, on account of the difficulty of purifying it from the products of the crude methyl. For making chloral, methylated spirit was unsuitable, hence this drug has never become an article of British manufacture on a commercial scale. Manufacturers in this country could not, for the same reason, profitably prepare anhydrous alcohol.

It was quite a mistake to suppose that the methylation prevented the spirit being used as a beverage, for it did not, as was pretty generally known. He should like to know what would spoil it for some people's drinking. He thought some method could be devised whereby manufacturers might be allowed to use pure alcohol duty free. If, for example, the operations were conducted in bond, or a drawback allowed on alcohol converted into compounds that could not be reconverted into alcohol.

The 2 per cent. of wood-spirit and 1 per cent. of pyridine bases used on the Continent was much less objectionable to manufacturers than our 10 per cent. of crude naphtha, although it was as disagreeable to the taste. And Continental manufacturers were allowed to use special mixtures under certain conditions with small percentages of turpentine and animal oil. The German system, he thought, might be advantageously introduced into this country. In conclusion, he proposed to have two qualities of methylated spirit. To one 5 per cent. of commercially pure methyl alcohol might be added. This mixture to be used only by licensed manufacturers, and not in the same premises as the other or ordinary variety.

The Chairman said Mr. Dott's paper raised important issues, and he thought it contained valuable reasonings.

Mr. Beilby suggested that it was a subject the Society might take up with the view to obtaining concessions to manufacturing chemists in the matter of alcohol.

The next paper read was a

NOTE ON THE ACTION OF BLEACHING AGENTS UPON WRITING AS A MEANS OF DETECTING FRAUD.

By Robert Irvine, F.C.S.

The author described experiments that he had made, the object of which was to determine the age of certain writings. He found that by using a weak solution—sp. gr. not more than 1.001—of bleaching-powder, and floating in it the papers with the respective writings, the time required to discharge the ink was a fair indication of the age of the writing. The older the writing the less readily was it acted upon by the bleaching liquid.

The Chairman said he thought Mr. Irvine's suggestion a novelty, and one which might be utilised in certain cases.

Mr. D. B. Sutherland, F.C.S., followed with a

NOTE ON SACCHARIN.

He pointed out that the spelling commonly adopted—"saccharin"—was a mistake; it ought to be "saccharine." *Saccharin*, he said, was discovered by Peligot ("Compt. Rend." **xc**, 153), and was obtained from sugar; it was not sweet, but has a saline and bitter taste; the formula is $C_6H_4O_3$. He had

found considerable difference in commercial samples of saccharin. Referring to the experiments of Gravill and Naylor, he said that three samples which he had heated to 100° C. all gave sublimate at once. In two to three hours they lost 1 per cent. of their weight, and in fourteen hours No. 1 lost 1.75 per cent.; No. 2, 2.05 per cent.; and No. 3, 2.75 per cent. The loss was not moisture, because the sublimate equalled the loss of weight, and the acidity diminished in proportion to loss of weight, instead of increasing, as would have been the case had the loss of weight been due to moisture. The percentage of ash was, he considered, an important matter in an article of so high a price as saccharin.

A communication on a "New Antiseptic Soap" was read by Mr. Irvine. Referring, at the outset, to the fashion at present of lauding bichloride of mercury as a germicide, the writer said that biniodide of mercury was more powerful as a germicide, while it was less poisonous in some other respects. A soap made with it, using potassium iodide as a means of making it soluble, was more powerful as a germicide than any soap at present obtainable. It had been tested with organisms; 1 part in 4,000 of water prevented the growth of *Streptococcus scarlatinae*. The soap had been used very successfully in cases of eczema and in parasitic skin diseases, such as *favus* and ringworm. For washing scarlet-fever patients during the desquamation stage it promised to be extremely serviceable. Dr. Woodhead was of opinion that Mr. Thomson, the originator of the soap, had put into their hands a soap that not only enfeebled the infective organisms, but actually killed them.

Specimens of the biniodide soap, containing 3 per cent. HgI_2 , were shown. Mr. J. B. McArthur read "Notes on the Analysis of some Mineral Oil Gases," and Mr. G. Beilby, F.I.C., exhibited a working model of Watt's electrically-driven laboratory hydro-extractor.

MANCHESTER SECTION.

THE second meeting of the session of this section was held on Tuesday, at the rooms of the Chemical Club, the Grand Hotel, Aytoun Street, Dr. Schunck, the new chairman of the section, presiding. Mr. W. Thomson read a paper on "The Action of different Chemical Substances in Preventing the Growth of Bacteria and Fungi." He described a series of experiments he had made with a view to discover the antiseptic power of various chemicals, and, incidentally referring to the spread of infectious disease, he pointed out the fallacy of common people supposing that it was the breath of scarlet-fever and small-pox patients which produced contagia; it was rather the particles of skin which peeled off at a certain stage of the diseases. Mr. T. Hilditch followed with a paper on "The Production of Ammonia from Atmospheric Nitrogen."

NEW COMPANIES.

THE LANCASHIRE GLASS BOTTLE COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital, 10,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares. Object, to purchase and carry on the business of glass bottle manufacturers, carried on by the Lancashire Glass Bottle Manufacturing Company, and to acquire the business and connection of Jonathan Robinson, bottle merchant, &c., together with the property, &c., belonging to the company and Mr. Robinson.

THE BORAX COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital, 1,000,000*l.* in 10*l.* shares. Object, to acquire and work the Boracite Mines, situate near Sultan Tchaïr, together with the concessions for fifty years from 1887 granted by the Imperial Ottoman Government to Messrs. Charles Hanson & Co. and others and Messrs. Desmazures. The company will acquire the lands, buildings, &c., the mineral now lying at the mines and at Panderma, and the borax factory of Messrs. Desmazures, situate at Maisons Lafitte, near Paris, with the lands, wharves, works, &c., raw and refined mineral, and the goodwill of the business as a going concern.

MEDICO-ELECTRIC BELT, TRUSS, AND BATTERY COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital, 20,000*l.* in 5*l.* shares. Object, to effect an agreement made between the Medical Electric Belt, Truss, and Health Appliance Company (Limited) and John Walter Biggs, of 12 Delahay Street, Westminster, the liquidator

thereof, of the one part, and Robert Henry Thomas, of 1 Hill-marten Road, Camden Road, N., consulting electrician, a trustee of this company, of the other part.

THE FROME FOOD COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital, 10,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares. Object, to acquire from H. F. Ihlee, L. R. S. Tomalin, and R. J. Sankey, the sole right of manufacturing and selling the hygienic alimental substances, such as alimental salts, extracts from grain, fruits, and vegetables, of Hermann Lehrenkrauss, of Stuttgart, subject to the payment of the royalty, and to various provisions mentioned in an agreement. The first subscribers are:—G. Newnes, M.P.; Wildcroft, Putney Heath; J. T. Hutchison, 6 New Court, E.C.; L. R. S. Tomalin, 22 Homefield Road, Wimbledon; R. J. Sankey, 31 Aldermanbury, E.C.; F. Fick, jun., 95 Milton Street, E.C.; H. F. Ihlee, Cronberg, Wimbledon; A. A. Yeatman, 2 Gresham Buildings, E.C.

Gazette.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

BOULT BROTHERS & Co., Liverpool, Glasgow, King William Street, City, Cardiff, and Newcastle-on-Tyne, oil merchants; as far as regards R. Baird.

LEWISOHN, J. L. & A., & BERNAYS, L., New York, as Lewisohn Brothers; Bury Street, St. Mary Axe, City, as Lewisohn Brothers & Co.; and Hamburg, as S. Lewisohn, jun., general merchants.

MAJER, CRAIG & Co., Brabant Court, Philpot Lane, City, general commission merchants.

SUTCLIFFE & GOSDEN, Dunster House, Mincing Lane, City, commission merchants; as far as regards J. Gosden.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1883.

RECEIVING ORDER.

RALPH, PHILIP, Hereford, chemist and druggist and farmer.

FIRST MEETING AND PUBLIC EXAMINATION.

ABBOTT, WILLIAM HODSON, Annesley Woodhouse, Newstead Kirkby, and Kirkby Folly, Nottinghamshire, surgeon. First meeting, Dec. 13, Official Receiver's offices, Nottingham; public examination, January 20, County Court House, Nottingham.

ADJUDICATIONS.

FORSTER, THOMAS, Monkseaton and Blyth, Northumberland, common brewer, innkeeper, aerated-water manufacturer, and ale and porter merchant.

RALPH, PHILIP, Hereford, chemist and druggist and farmer.

ORDER ON APPLICATION TO APPROVE SCHEME.

TAYLOR, HERBERT (trading as David Taylor & Sons), Mark Lane, City, and Piccadilly, merchant. Property of the debtor to vest in trustee, who, subject to the provisions of the scheme, is to administer such property as though the debtor had been adjudged bankrupt, &c. Receiving order rescinded.

NOTICES OF DIVIDENDS.

BRAY, EDMOND SELWYN, late of Smart's Buildings, Holborn, mineral-water manufacturer. First div. of 10*d.*, Dec. 12, Messrs. Martin & Farrow's, 3 Newgate Street, E.C.

EVANS, BARROW, Derby, formerly chemist and druggist, now in the employ of manufacturing chemists. First and final div. of 1*s.* 5½*d.*, any day, Mr. T. H. Harrison's, 18 Wardwick, Derby.

MACKINTOSH, LACHLAN, BEAUCHAMP, HERBERT LLOYD, and DUDGEON, CHARLES JOHN, Shanghai, and New Broad Street, London, trading in Shanghai as Mackintosh, Dudgeon & Co., and at New Broad Street, London, as H. L. Beauchamp & Co., merchants. First and final div. of 9½*d.*, any day except Saturday, Chief Official Receiver's offices, 33 Carey Street, Lincoln's Inn.

FRENCH PHARMACEUTICAL NEWS.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

DR. FRANCIS FRANCK was, on November 29, elected a member of the Academy of Medicine, for the section of anatomy and physiology.

ADOLPHE CARNOT, the brother of the new President of the French Republic, is the present director of the School of Mines chemical laboratory, on the Boulevard St. Michel, where he is said to be now busy with mineral water analyses.

THE BORDEAUX FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY, during the session of 1836-87, granted 215 diplomas, 115 being to doctors of medicine; officiers de santé, 6; pharmacists of the first class, 32; of the second class, 28; midwives, 32; and only 2 herbalists.

THE MARSEILLES PHARMACISTS CARRY THEIR POINT.—The Aix Court of Appeal has affirmed the judgment of the Marseilles court forbidding the private pharmacy of a mutual benevolent association to sell medicines to any but members of the society. The Marseilles pharmacists were complainants in the case.

PHYSICIAN AND PHARMACIST IN TROUBLE.—A physician of Strasbourg is reported to have been arrested for frauds in the supply of medicines to the poor of the city. A pharmacist and his assistant, implicated as having aided and abetted the peculations, are also in charge. No names are mentioned, but it is said another accusation of a more serious character is also pending against the doctor, namely, the charge of poisoning patients with colchicum. If so, M. Houdé's process just discovered, and published in the last number of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, will come in good time to prove or disprove the presence of colchicum in the remains.

DEATH OF CHARLES MÉNIÈRE.—Ménière, "d'Angers"—as he used to call himself to avoid confusion with others of the same patronymic—was born in 1816 at Angers, and in 1842 graduated at the Paris College of Pharmacy. An indefatigable worker, he was well known for many original investigations, and at his death was the pharmacist-in-chief of the Angers hospitals. M. Ménière wrote a number of papers, to be found in almost every scientific and pharmaceutical periodical, on the mineralogy of his native department, Maine-et-Loire, antimony sulphides and oxides, and such pharmaceutical topics as leeches, yarrow, rennet, chlorinated cotton for making collodion, Fowler's solution, native bismuth, assay of licorice extract, decomposition of sodium salicylate solutions, &c.

THE VAL-DE-GRÂCE SCHOOL OF MILITARY MEDICINE AND PHARMACY has been reorganised by a presidential decree issued on November 26, on General Ferron's recommendation. The official document, a rather lengthy one, ignores pharmacists when positions of influence are to be filled, and only remembers them when their special qualifications render them indispensable. The staff, says the decree, shall be composed of a surgeon-inspector as director, a surgeon-principal as sub-director, a surgeon-major of the first class as major, a surgeon of the same grade as librarian and keeper of the collections, &c. But military pharmacists are mentioned only as teachers in their special branches. Yet pharmacists are wanted for the military service, as inducements are held out for them to fall in. For instance, pharmacists of the first class have been declared *de jure* admissible, with only an examination designed to classify them according to merit, and on joining the class will be entitled to the outfit indemnity and regular pay. Besides, on leaving the school, after a year's attendance, they will have the grade of aid-major of the first class, with all the advantages and emoluments attached thereto.

DEATH OF DR. MÉHU.—Camille-Jean-Marie Méhu died, on November 29, in Paris, aged fifty-two. Deceased was born at Dijon (Côte d'Or) in Burgundy, and graduated as pharmacist of the first class in 1862 at the Paris College, and in 1865 as doctor of medicine at the Paris Faculty. In 1863 he was appointed the pharmacist-in-chief to the Necker Hospital, a post he filled for some nineteen years, when he was transferred, in the same capacity, to the Charité Hospital. He was in 1880 elected a member of the Academy of Medicine for the section of pharmacy, and in 1881 re-

presented it, as well as the Paris Pharmaceutical Society, as their delegate to the London International Pharmaceutical Congress. He was an honorary member of many pharmaceutical societies, including those of Chicago, Philadelphia, &c.; and, finally, last May he was elected an honorary member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, and at that time his portrait—a good likeness—was published in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. Dr. Méhu's works were mostly of a medico-chemical nature. He wrote many papers, generally republished in most pharmaceutical periodicals, on iodide of mercury, bismuthic citrates, uric composition, pleuretic liquids, &c.; but he also published several books. His practical treatise on "Medical Chemistry Applied to Clinical Researches," and his work on "Normal and Pathological Urine and Urinary Calculi," are text-books often consulted by students. Dr. Méhu besides indulged in periodical literature, for in 1872 he continued the publication of Réveil's *Annuaire Pharmacétique*, and up to his death was one of the editors of the *Journal de Pharmacie et de Chimie*, his special department being to write a review of foreign pharmaceutical literature. M. Bourquelot, the pharmacist to the Laëon Hospital, is temporarily filling Dr. Méhu's place at the Charité, but he is not considered a candidate to the succession, as he holds an equivalent position.

THE PARIS PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

The regular monthly meeting of the Société de Pharmacie, held on December 7, was opened with a remark by M. Marc Boymond, who wished to correct a statement made by him, at the last sitting, on the solubility of boric acid when a small proportion of magnesia is added. He said he had spoken of the fact on the faith of a foreign publication, but having himself tried the experiment, he had found the statement to be incorrect, and desired to inform his fellow-members of the truth.

M. Champigny presented a specimen of *strophanthus seeds* in the pod, obtained from Dr. Polailon, who had them direct from Dr. Ballé, the African explorer. He showed how the seeds were provided with silky tufts enabling them to float in the air (and some were blown about the hall like dandelion seeds). He also handed round a specimen of the poisoned arrow used by the natives, and suppose to owe its virtue to strophanthin. The arrow is made from a slender, short reed, and is apparently blown from a tube. M. Champigny, while cautioning his associate respecting the arrow, added he had not complete faith in the strophanthus poison. He thought many of the stories told by the natives were doubtful legends. In fact they show but little trust themselves in the weapon, since they buy guns from the Europeans whenever they can. Besides, M. Champigny had wounded domestic hens with the arrows, and observed no particular effect. Speaking of strophanthus proper, he was obliged to say he was not sure the specimens belonged to the real *hispidus* species; whereupon Professor Planchon remarked that the plant is much spoken of now, but all about it is very vague and very doubtful. Scientists cannot agree; the seeds as received are considerably mixed up with evidently foreign species, and it is hard to tell now what real strophanthus *hispidus* is.

A paper from M. Benoit, de Joigny, on "Crystallised Aconitine and Digitalin," recommended that they should be made into granules containing only one-tenth of a milligramme in each. An instructive discussion followed, showing the extreme potency of these chemicals when chemically pure. Professor Bourgoing mentioned a case when a patient was nearly killed with one-fourth of a milligramme of aconitine. M. Petit mentioned that he was in the habit of trying his chemical on frogs, thinking the physiological test preferable to any known heretofore, and had found that one-eighth of a milligramme of pure aconitine is sufficient to kill a frog. Other examples having been quoted, all agreed that granules containing one-tenth of a milligramme of aconitine should be the adopted form for pharmaceutical practice.

Professor Bouclard said "crystallised digitalin" is almost as poisonous as aconitine, and should always be dispensed in granules of one-tenth of a milligramme. There is besides with this chemical the danger that the "German digitalin," an amorphous principle, is much less active than the French crystallised digitalin. [Note.—The Germans call *digi-*

toxin what the French name crystallised digitalin, and give the name of digitalin to another substance.—*Reporter.*] M. Champigny, in reference to these extremely toxic alkaloids, recommended as a good way to divide them to dissolve them in chloroform, and add to the mass a little carmine to show when the mixing is even and thorough. But the physicians should be notified, else they might fear some dispensing mistake.

Antipyrin, as may be expected, came up again for discussion, and everyone had something to say. Professor Jungfleisch, who has consulted lawyers on the subject, was of opinion that there is good ground to contest the patent and break it. According to French law a medicine cannot be patented. So, to evade the law, the makers copyrighted the name, and implicitly—but not openly—abandoned the patent. It is strange that by trick and device foreigners should have been able to obtain from the French law a protection which is explicitly denied to French pharmacists.

M. Delpech and M. Crinon, of the committee on antipyrin appointed at last meeting, reported they had considered the matter, and found themselves confronted with too many intricate points of law to enable them to come to a conclusion. In fact they had decided to decide nothing, and the subject was laid over to next month. While a discussion on the medals to be awarded for theses was taking place, a ballot was quietly going on for *new officers* for the coming year, and resulted in the election of Prof. Bouchardat as vice-president, and M. Bourquelot as annual secretary. According to rule, M. Delpech, who was vice-president this year, will be president in 1888. Prof. Planchon remains perpetual secretary, and Prof. Wurtz, archivist.

Colonel Bonkowski Bz, the chemist to H.M. the Sultan of Turkey, being present at the meeting, was tendered the privileges of the floor, and returned his thanks. The Colonel was the delegate of the Government at the Congress of Hygiene just held at Vienna.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

THE following are the regulations made by the Commissioners of Customs under section 16 of the Merchandise Marks Act. The Act confers on the Commissioners powers to prohibit the importation of goods bearing forged or fraudulent trade marks or descriptions, and in order to carry out their duties the Commissioners make the following order:—

1. Goods prohibited to be imported as hereinbefore recited, having applied to them forged trade-marks, false trade-descriptions, or marks, names, or descriptions otherwise illegal, which, upon examination, are detected by the officers of Customs, are to be detained by them without the requirement of previous information.

2. In giving information with a view to detention an informant must fulfil the following conditions—viz: (i.) He must give to the collector or superintendent, or the chief officer of Customs of the (port or sub-port) of expected importation, notice in writing, stating the number of packages expected, as far as he is able to state the same; the description of the goods by marks or other particulars sufficient for their identification; the name or other sufficient indication of the importing ship; the manner in which the goods infringe the Act; the expected day of the arrival of the ship. (ii.) He must deposit with the collector or other officer as aforesaid a sum sufficient, in the opinion of that officer, to cover any additional expense which may be incurred in the examination required by reason of his notice.

3. If, upon arrival and examination of the goods, the officer of Customs is satisfied that there is no ground for their detention, they will be delivered. If he is not so satisfied, he will decide either to detain the goods, as in a case of detention upon ordinary examination, or to require security from the informant, for reimbursing the Commissioners or their officers all expenses and damages incurred in respect of the detention made on his information and of any proceedings consequent thereon.

4. The security thus required must be an immediate *ad valorem* deposit of 10% per cent. on the value of the goods, as fixed by the officer from the quantities or value shown by the entry; and, also, subsequently a bond, to be completed

within four days, in double the value of the goods, with two approved sureties. The *ad valorem* deposit will be returned upon completion of the bond, and will not be required if, as an alternative, where time permits, the informant prefers to give a like bond before examination, upon estimated value of the goods declared to by him under statutory declaration. If the security is not duly given as above required there will be no further detention of the goods.

5. In the above regulations the words "officer of Customs" mean an officer acting under general or special direction of the Commissioners, and the words "value of the goods" mean value irrespective of duty.

6. The "notice" and "bond" required as above shall be in the forms contained in the schedule to these regulations, or in such other forms as the Commissioners may from time to time order and direct.

7. The security taken under these regulations will be given up at the times following—that is to say:—Where given before examination, and if no detention, forthwith; where given on detention—if the forfeiture is completed, either by lapse of time or ultimate condemnation by a court of justice, then on such completion of forfeiture; if the forfeiture is not completed, then if the goods are released by the Commissioners, and no action or suit has been commenced against them, or any of their officers, in respect of the detention, then at the expiration of three months from the time of detention; or, if the goods are released for failure of proceedings taken for the forfeiture and condemnation thereof upon information under section 207 of the Customs Consolidation Act, 1876, and no action or suit has been commenced against the Commissioners, or any of their officers, in respect of the detention, then at the expiration of three months from the trial of such information; if within such periods as aforesaid any such action or suit as aforesaid has been commenced, then upon the ultimate conclusion of such action or suit, and the fulfilment of the purpose for which the security was given.

8. These regulations apply to transshipment and transit goods as well as to goods landed to be warehoused, or for home consumption.

9. The 1st day of January, 1888, is, by these "regulations," fixed as the day from which section 2 of the Revenue Act, 1883, shall be repealed, subject to the terms of the recited Act; and these regulations will take effect from the date of such repeal.

Commissioners of Her Majesty's Customs { CHARLES DU CANE,
H. MURRAY,
HORACE SEYMOUR,

Custom House, London, Dec. 1.

Trade Notes.

MESSRS. E. A. DE PASS & CO., of 3 Coleman Street, E.C. are issuing a beautifully printed and illustrated price-list of the goods manufactured by the Mattson Rubber Company. An excellent feature of the list is that in the majority of cases a description of the action and uses of the apparatus is given.

THE annual contract for the supply of Edwards' preserved potato to Her Majesty's Navy—145,000 lbs.—has again been taken by Messrs. Frederick King & Co. (Limited), of Belfast and London, who have supplied the Admiralty for over forty years. Their Edwards' Desiccated Soup is well known in the home market.

THERE is a very clever advertisement of Pears' Soap in the Christmas number of *Truth*. The soap is declared to be "matchless for political complexion, to soften asperities, and to remove all differences"; and its properties in these respects are illustrated by a picture representing Mr. Gladstone and the Marquis of Hartington, with coats off, engaged in evidently pleasant conversation, while they are drying their hands after using the soap, while Mr. Chamberlain is at the wash-stand applying the same soap to himself with the promise of a similarly happy result. The back page of the same publication is occupied by that other leviathan advertiser, Mr. Beecham, who has a new and attractive illustration representing "Health Crowning Beauty."

Legal Reports.

E. MERCK V. LEHN & FINK.

THE hearing of this case, which is a criminal action brought by E. Merck, a chemical manufacturer in Germany, against Lehn & Fink, wholesale druggists, of New York, again occupied the attention of the magistrate at Tombs Police Court, New York, on November 12 and 17. The evidence given on behalf of the prosecution merely corroborated that already reported in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*. One of the witnesses stated that he had been in the habit, while in the employ of the accused, of opening sealed packages Merck's goods upon arrival and remove the seal by means of a knife, which he stated was quite an easy proceeding. A sealed bottle of Merck's soda bicarbonate was handed to this witness in court, and he there and then removed the seal and replaced it by another one without leaving any trace of the operation. Another former employé of Lehn & Fink's, being asked about the sale of salicylic acid to the Best Brewing Company of Milwaukee, was handed a package of the acid, which he identified as one of those sent to Best. This package did not bear Merck's label, and on witness's attention being specially called to this, he stated that he could not remember whether all the packages sent to Best bore such a label or not. The labels used, witness said, had been taken from one-pound packages of Merck's salicylic acid crystals and the figure 1 altered to 10. They were then affixed to the 10 lb. packages. The substitution of amorphous salicylic acid for salicylic acid crystals was done by order of Mr. Fink. On November 17 Mr. Th. Weicker, the prosecutor's representative, read the following extract from a letter written by Merck to Lehn & Fink on July 1, 1886:—"It has been alleged that you imitated (that is to say, printed) labels with my name on them, and in the style used by me. I ask you for information as to how the matter stands; that is to say, whether there is any truth in the allegation." In their reply Lehn & Fink absolutely denied having done anything of the sort. This closed the case for the prosecution. The accused's counsel then moved for the dismissal of the case on the ground that the evidence had failed to prove that any labels in the possession of the defendants were counterfeit or that any counterfeit labels were knowingly in their possession. In his speech the counsel maintained that this was not a case of a firm trying to enrich themselves at another's expense, or to the injury to another. Assuming the worst, Lehn & Fink kept a full stock of Merck's goods, and whenever they did not have a particular article they tried to get it from other importers, and in a few cases not having and being unable to get the article, another, equally good, equally costly, was substituted. Even if all that their clerks did was chargeable to Lehn & Fink, no fraudulent intent to harm anybody had been shown, and in not a single instance had even these clerks been shown to have improperly used a label of Merck's to palm off an inferior article or to injure Merck or the public. In regard to the labels printed by Boecker, it had not been proved that they had been ordered by the firm, or that the firm had any knowledge that they were ordered. In the case of the substitution of Schering's salicylic acid for Merck's, it was shown that both were manufactured under the same patent, both were exactly alike and cost the same, and that Merck had sent out to the United States Schering's acid under his own (Merck's) label. The prosecuting counsel, on the other hand, maintained that fraud had been conclusively proved, and that, at the same time that Lehn & Fink wrote to Merck denying having counterfeited his trademark or wrongly used his labels, they ordered 1,000 of Merck's labels from Boecker, the printer, but never once mentioned that fact in their letter to the prosecutor. At the conclusion of the speech for the prosecution the case was adjourned until November 30.

A MENTHOL TRANSACTION.

IN the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice on Tuesday, the case of the American Trading Company v. Brueckner and others came before Mr. Justice Day, sitting without a jury. This was an action for breach of contract, brought by the American Trading Company, of

Fenchurch Street, London, also New York and Yokohama, against the three defendants, Messrs. Brueckner, Koenigsheim & Stoothoff, of New York and Germany, and until recently of 59 Mark Lane, London.

Mr. Fletcher Moulton, Q.C., and Mr. R. G. Glenn, were counsel for the plaintiffs; Mr. Murphy, Q.C., and Mr. Edwin Jones were counsel for the defendants.

The case for the plaintiffs was that the defendants entered into a contract in the autumn of 1885 to purchase 1,500 lbs. of menthol, at 21s. 6d. per lb., to be paid for on delivery at Japan in November. After delivery of 260 lbs. of the menthol the defendants broke the agreement by refusing to accept delivery of the residue. The plaintiffs then had the menthol shipped to London, where it was sold at public auction in March, 1886. For their loss on the transaction and the expense to which they had been put the plaintiffs claimed damages 1,000l. The defendants denied the agreement alleged by plaintiffs, and said that the contract was for the 1,500 lbs. of menthol, at 21s. 6d. "c. i. f. London," and to be delivered in London in November, 1885, the quality to be equal to the sample deposited with the defendants. They denied that they agreed to accept delivery out in Japan. The order for the 1,000 lbs. was given in June, and for 500 lbs. in September. The defendants said they had always been ready and willing to fulfil their part of the contract, which, they contended, had been broken by the plaintiffs, firstly, in not delivering the goods within the time agreed; and, secondly, by sending menthol of an inferior quality to the sample. Having ordered the 1,500 lbs. of menthol, the defendants accepted orders from their customers, which they had been unable to execute through the breach of contract by the plaintiffs, and they therefore counter-claimed for damages against the plaintiff. The plaintiffs, by their manager, Mr. Newsom, proved the contract, and he testified the quality of the menthol supplied to be according to sample.

The principal part of the evidence was given by witnesses called on behalf of the defendants, with the view of showing that the bulk of the menthol was inferior to the sample.

Mr. Bülow, defendants' manager in London, stated that the time for the delivery of the menthol under the contract was November, and he denied that an extension of time was given. They accepted delivery of the 260 lbs. in December, but they refused to accept delivery after the beginning of the year 1886, when the market was dropping.

Mr. Horner, of the firm of Messrs. Horner & Sons, wholesale druggists, Mitre Court, Aldgate, stated that he purchased some of the menthol at the auction sale in March, and there was so much oil in it that he expected the whole lot to go to oil. In the early part of 1886 menthol fell in the market 1s. 6d. per lb., and there was a considerable drop when it became known that this quantity would be offered at auction.

Mr. T. E. C. Bates said he bought the bulk of the menthol at the auction for Messrs. Lewis & Peat from the samples on show. He did not say it was bad menthol, but it was much too oily. All the oil had to be drained off before the menthol could be used. The sample was a better quality menthol than the bulk.

Mr. R. P. Cockeram, druggists' buyer, gave evidence of buying some menthol at the sale, and said the firm he bought for had to recrystallise the menthol before using it, as there was too much oil to allow of it being made into cones for pharmaceutical purposes. Cross-examined: The menthol of commerce was a menthol extracted from a variety of Japanese oils, but there should be no free oil in the crystals. In the case of 5-lb. tins, which had been kept for eighteen months, he should certainly expect to find a solid mass at the bottom. He did not agree that the longer menthol was kept the greater was the chance of its going back to its original form. Such a result should not happen in this country, as nothing but an exotic temperature would send menthol crystals back to oil. The menthol he bought in March he had recrystallised in May.

Mr. Thomas Christy, of 25 Lime Street, said he introduced menthol into Europe in 1853. He was a wholesale druggist, and for many years had experience in the cultivation and sale of menthol. The British public were just beginning to realise the value of the preparation. He thought the bulk of the menthol supplied to the defendants by plaintiffs corresponded to the sample. There was no appreciable

difference. Cross-examined, witness said there might have been a little too much oil in it.

Having heard the speeches of the learned counsel,

His lordship gave judgment for the defendants on the claim with costs, and on the counter-claim with one shilling damages; but, inasmuch as the evidence tended to show that the menthol supplied was similar to the sample ordered, that the taxing-master should allow plaintiffs any costs specially applicable to the quality.

BANKRUPTCY REPORTS.

Re JOSEPH NICHOLSON BLAKE, Brookhill, Sheffield, Medical Practitioner.

At the Sheffield Bankruptcy Court on December 1, this debtor applied for his discharge. The Official Receiver reported that the bankrupt had not kept the usual and proper books, and had contracted debts without reasonable probability of being able to pay them. Dividends to the amount of 3s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. on 498l. 1s. 7d. had been paid. In reply to Mr. Neal, the debtor said he kept a day-book and ledger, but not a cash-book. He had failed in Taunton, then came to Sheffield. The debts were incurred to reinstate him in practice, and for a time his practice succeeded, but he suffered from a serious illness, but for which he believed he would have been solvent now. Judge Ellison granted the discharge, with a nominal suspension of one month.

Re PATRICK LETTERS, Dundee, Doctor of Medicine.

THE examination of this debtor, formerly of Dundee, but now of Carlow, Ireland, was fixed to be held in the Edinburgh Bankruptcy Court on Friday, December 2. On the case being called, it was stated by Mr. J. F. Mackay, W.S., agent in the sequestration, that a letter of citation had been sent to the bankrupt in Ireland, but that it was returned marked "refused." In these circumstances the trustee, Mr. Douglass Duncan, advocate, Aberdeen, moved Sheriff Hamilton for a warrant for the apprehension of the bankrupt, which was granted. The bankrupt has for many years practised medicine in Dundee, where he had three open drug-shops. His practice was chiefly confined to the Roman Catholic population. During the last five years he has endeavoured at various times to dispose of his shops. He has given up no statement of his affairs, and the amount of his assets has not yet been ascertained.

Re DAVIS & LAIRD, Queen's Dock, Liverpool, Oil and Paint Manufacturers.

THE public examination of these debtors was continued on December 5. The unsecured debts amounted to 1,236l. 12s. 1d., and the assets to 698l. 11s. 5d., leaving a deficiency of 538l. 0s. 8d. In examination Mr. Davis admitted that he had overestimated his assets, and said he was prepared to amend his statement. The examination was therefore adjourned to January 9 to enable him to do so.

Re HENRY CLARK PEEL, Bond Street, Dewsbury, trading as a Chemist and Druggist.

THIS bankrupt applied for his discharge at the Dewsbury County Court recently. Mr. E. E. Deane, the official receiver, reported that on May 20, 1886, a receiving order was made against the defendant. He had given full information as to his liabilities and assets, and a dividend of 2s. 6d. in the pound had been paid. His debts to unsecured creditors amounted to 530l. 5s. 10d. The debtor had continued his business for a considerable time after he knew he was insolvent. He had carried on the business of a chemist and druggist above twenty years with success, and it was only within the last few years he had suffered a heavy loss by the depreciation of certain property. In 1871 he became involved in what was known as the Warwick Road Building Club, which resulted in a misfortune to all the members, especially to Mr. Peel and one or two others. After some inquiries from the judge regarding this matter, he remarked that it ap-

peared to be a clear case of misfortune, and he would grant the discharge, to date from January 1 next.

Re JAY PÈRE ET FILS, 46 Fitzroy Street, Euston Square, Wholesale Perfumers.

THE first meeting of creditors under the failure of Alfred Jay, trading as above, was presided over on Friday by Mr. C. J. Stewart. The filed accounts show gross liabilities of 3,591l. 19s. 11d., of which 3,074l. 3s. is expected to rank, against assets of 114l. 18s. 4d. Appended is a list of the principal creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Barrett, R. H., Haekney	45	0	0
Bertin, Jessier & Co., Paris	99	13	1
Bunting, W. G., Featherstone Street	33	2	6
Cavallier Frères, Grasse	172	15	2
Cohen, E. J., Bedford Square	50	0	0
Cohen, J. & M., Houndsditch	924	5	3
Cox & Co., Tottenham Court Road	17	0	0
Cox, S. G., Leicester	47	0	0
Crepv, Dubois, France	111	9	8
De Lucca, G., Long Lane	55	5	3
Diekson, D. M. & Son, Torrington Park	39	10	0
Dixon & Co., Tottenham Court Road	9	12	7
Edwards, E., Islington	19	3	0
Ehrick & Co. (Limited), Aberdeen	79	4	2
Fish Bros., Kenton Street, W.	45	0	0
Frisher, J., Jewin Street	18	15	7
Gas Light & Coke Co.	10	0	0
Hodgkinson, Prestons & King, Bishopsgate Street	73	8	6
Horsley & Floyd, Haekney	33	8	9
Hutchinson & Co., Basinghall Street	22	12	8
Jay & Co., Regent Street	17	10	0
Jessop & Co., Leadenhall Street	129	10	5
Jowett Mellor	10	7	5
Jusch, H., Euston Road	17	4	0
Laurence, H., Chancery Lane	30	0	0
Laurence, J., & Co., Great Russell Street	20	0	0
Levy, M. B., Bishopsgate Street	70	0	0
Munt, G. W., Cross Street, Hatton Garden	15	18	0
Newport, J., Fitzroy Square	24	12	0
Outram, D., & Co. (Limited), Watling Street	46	10	7
Payne, H. & J., Southsea	14	11	8
Riche & Co., Lawrence Pountney Lane	18	6	0
Robinson, P., Oxford Street	9	13	0
Roux & Co., Paris	44	19	7
Schneider, R. & Co., Aldermanbury	22	17	8
Scottish Vulcanite Co., Edinburgh	21	4	0
Smith, Banhill Row	11	4	2
Smith, E., East Street, City Road	10	1	9
Smith, R. & Co., Nottingham	28	10	5
Stewart, R., & Co., Queen Victoria Street	26	8	0
Sutton, Carden & Co., Finsbury	44	8	2
Symes, J. J., Camden Town	36	0	0
Tanner, Dr., Queen Anne Street	37	0	0
Thompson & Son, Tottenham Court Road	9	17	1
Turner & Co., Sheffield	22	11	10
Turzery & Co., Stourbridge	21	9	3
Woodland, W., Goodman Fields	20	0	0
West London Dairy	11	3	4
Waterston & Sons, Newgate	12	1	4

Liability.

Tottenham Court Loan Society	50	0	0
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There was no offer, and the summary order having been obtained, the Official Receiver will wind up the estate in bankruptcy. Mr. Piesse appeared for the petitioning creditors.

The observations of the Official Receiver on this case state that the debtor filed petitions for liquidation under the Bankruptcy Act, 1869, in July, 1877 (as Alfred Joseph, importer of foreign goods), with unsecured liabilities, paying creditors 5s. in the pound on 32,634l., and again in December, 1881 (as Alfred Henry Jay, having changed his name by deed poll, wholesale perfumer), after a fire at his premises, "The Kensington Supply Association," in respect of which he received about 6,000l. insurance money, which, he states, he paid away to certain creditors, the creditors who were scheduled accepting a composition of 9d. in the pound. He then recommenced business with a small stock, but no money of his own, and has carried it on by means of loans. He

attributes his present deficiency to loss on trading and to loss by misconduct of a traveller. His cash-book is incomplete, as it does not contain his borrowed money transactions, and he has not prepared accounts or balance-sheets showing the results of his trading or position from time to time. He has been required to furnish a cash account. He has been adjudged bankrupt.

Re F. THOMAS, trading as Frederick Thomae & Co., 21 Mincing Lane, and 36 Mark Lane, E.C., Merchant.

At the first meeting of this bankrupt no offer was made on his behalf, and it was resolved to wind up in bankruptcy, with the Official Receiver as trustee. The following are included as creditors:—

Unsecured.

	£	s.	d.
Baxter, S. (executors of), Great St. Helens	85	0	0
Hannan, C., Leadenhall Street, merchant	82	9	0
Ledger & Hornby, Fenchurch Buildings	143	14	7
Rohmsen & Co., 81 Gracechurch Street	410	15	5
C. A. Vermineck, Marseilles	233	1	10
Russische Pharmaz., Handelsgees., St. Petersburg ..	200	0	0
R. Salsicconi, Leghorn	83	7	4

Fully Secured.

Franks & Gandan, Mincing Lane	50	0	0
Priece, Hickman & Co.	180	0	0
H. Febr & Co., Mark Lane	20	0	0
Lewis & Peat, 6 Mincing Lane	70	0	0
Paddy & Co., 6 Mincing Lane	20	0	0

Partly Secured.

Griffin & Sons, Mincing Lane	115	16	8
Estimated value secured, £50			
J. A. Rucker & Bencraft, Mincing Lane	550	0	0
Estimated value secured, £380			
Rehder & Co., Mark Lane	60	15	0
Estimated value secured, £30			
Wilson, Smithett & Co., Mincing Lane	335	10	5
Estimated value secured, £150			

LIST D.—Liabilities.

Chininfabrik, Auerbach	4,904	15	11
Bertram, H., & Co., Bishopsgate Street	57	3	4
Ditto ditto	127	3	9
H. Plomer & Co., 23 Finsbury Circus	57	18	0
Ditto ditto	78	16	0
J. Lorimer & Co., Islington	95	4	2

The cause of failure is attributed by the debtor to the great falling-off in his profit and commission on cinchona dealings, owing to the enormous depreciation in the value of that article since 1883, the value having fallen from about 2*l.* to 1*l.* per lb. The value of quinine had also fallen greatly, and this had added to his losses. The debtor further states he had had to return half commission to his chief buyer since December 1885. He did not realise his insolvency until a creditor obtained a judgment against him in October for wheat differences. In 1876 he filed a petition for liquidation or composition under the 1869 Act. At that time the creditors accepted 7*s.* in the pound, which was duly paid.

Re GEORGE MUNDIE, Canterbury, Medical Practitioner.

At the Canterbury Bankruptcy Court, on Friday, this debtor applied for his order of discharge. The Official Receiver reported that the debtor, formerly of Eastbourne, had handed over a ledger which merely showed debts due to the estate. The greater part of the debts was contracted in 1885 and 1886 at Kingston-on-Thames and Canterbury, at a time when it would seem a knowledge of his insolvency was patent to him. He had stated that he "had had a good many transactions with money lenders." In December, 1885, he purchased a practice in Canterbury for 200*l.*, through his son-in-law (Dr. Havegood). The bankrupt made little or no inquiry as to the value of the practice, and in a short time found it was valueless. A large portion of the deficiency was attributed to this. His Honour asked what Mr. Creery wished him to infer from his report. The Official Receiver

said it seemed that the debtor had been trading knowing himself to be insolvent. His Honour: No one can say a medical man trades. The Official Receiver: He gets into debt, at any rate. His Honour: What is a medical man to do when he gets into difficulties? Is he to stop his practice? The Official Receiver: Is he to stay in a place for a year or two and get into debt? Is he to go to another place, and do the same thing there? Is that a thing the court would approve of? His Honour said that if the Official Receiver had stated that the debtor had incurred debts without reasonable expectation of being able to pay them it would be another matter. Dr. Mundie said he had made as much as 1,000*l.* a year at Eastbourne and London. His predecessor at Canterbury kept up the practice by bills and advertisements, but he (Dr. Mundie) would not condescend to that. He had not handed over his day-book because it contained his prescriptions. The Official Receiver: You should have handed it over. His Honour: I don't agree with that. The Official Receiver: The cash-book generally enables you to see what a man is doing. His Honour said it appeared that the debtor had kept books that were usual and proper. It could not be said that any member of a learned profession was a trader, and therefore the offence of trading with a knowledge of insolvency could not be properly alleged against the debtor. It appeared that the debtor's predecessor had used bills and advertisements, but Dr. Mundie, having a due regard to the dignity of a medical man, did not feel inclined to carry that on. Under the circumstances the debtor would be granted an unconditional discharge.

Obituary.

BLOXAM.—Mr. Charles Loudon Bloxam, who for many years held the professorship of chemistry in King's College, London, and was formerly lecturer at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, died on November 28, aged fifty-five years. Mr. Bloxam's original researches, contributed mostly to the Chemical Society, were of a highly technical character. As far back as 1853 he devised methods for the analytical separation of tin, antimony, and arsenic; and he subsequently investigated the action of boracic acid upon the alkaline carbonates and alkaline earths. The poisonous metals claimed a good deal of his attention; he suggested an electrolytic test for the presence of arsenic, made a special study of the compounds of arsenious acid, and investigated the source of the arsenic which occurs in the sulphuric acid of commerce. In conjunction with Sir F. A. Abel, about thirty years ago, he conducted researches on the valuation of nitre. Mr. Bloxam was the author of a well-known manual of chemistry and of some smaller works on the metals.

BOWES.—On November 26, at his residence, Queen Street, Whitehaven, Mr. Joseph Bowes, chemist and druggist, aged 54. Mr. Bowes was a man who was highly respected in his neighbourhood, and in his lifetime had travelled much, particularly in Northern Europe, Iceland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and "the Land of the Midnight Sun."

GOODWYN.—On November 22, Mr. Charles Smith Goodwyn, chemist and druggist, Wray Crescent, Tollington Park, London. Aged 49.

PATERSON.—William D. Paterson, a gentleman well known in the American drug trade, died on November 19, at about fifty years of age. In his youth Mr. Paterson travelled for a New York house through Northern Africa, the Levant, and Turkey, and became intimately acquainted with the gum trade of those countries. He afterwards became partner in the New York gum firm of T. B. Merrick, and it is said that mainly through the deceased's knowledge of his trade that firm obtained control of the gum market. Afterwards he again left the firm, having privately contracted embarrassing liabilities owing to speculative operations of one of his relatives. At the time of his death Mr. Paterson was manager to the firm of David E. Green.

REYNOLDS.—On September 17, Mr. Poole Reynolds, chemist and druggist, Bassingham, Lincolnshire. Aged 77.

RICHARDSON.—On December 2, at Throgmorton Street, E.C., James Richardson, chemist and druggist, 448 Kingsland Road, N. Aged 56.

THE "SANITAS" COMPANY, LIMITED, v. GEORGE CONDY.

On October 27, 1887, an injunction was granted, with costs, by the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, restraining the Defendant, his servants and agents, from infringing the Company's registered trade-mark "Sanitas" by any use of the term "Sanitas," as applied to deodorant disinfectant, or antiseptic preparations, soaps and like substances, and from advertising or exposing for sale, or selling or procuring to be sold, any deodorant, disinfectant, or antiseptic preparation not of the Company's manufacture, under the name of "Sanitas" or "Sanitant," or "Condi Sanitas," or "Condy's Sanitant," or under any other name of which the word "Sanitas" or "Sanitant," or any compound or colourable imitation of the word "Sanitas," forms part, or from, in any other way, infringing the Company's said trade-mark.

CAUTION.

All persons are cautioned against committing any infringement of the Company's registered trade-mark "Sanitas," as in all cases of infringement coming to the knowledge of the Company proceedings will be at once instituted for the protection of their rights.

Friedrichshall.

THE WELL-KNOWN APERIENT MINERAL WATER.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

By reason of an improved method of caption, by which dilution is avoided FRIEDRICHSHALL WATER will be found now to be of CONSIDERABLY GREATER STRENGTH and EFFICACY than heretofore.

The ordinary dose is a large wineglassful (4 ounces) taken fasting. Most efficacious and more acceptable to the palate when heated or mixed with an equal quantity of very hot water.

"After twenty years' use I appreciate it as highly as ever."
Professor VIRCHOW.

Of all Chemists and Mineral Water Dealers. [2]



SILICATED CARBON PATENT MOVABLE BLOCK FILTERS.

SEE ADVERTISEMENT, PAGE 36.

WOODHALL SPA

BROMO IODINE MINERAL WATER.

The strongest known Iodine Water in the World.

This remarkable Spa has been purchased by a Syndicate of gentlemen who have determined to make more widely known the extraordinary curative powers of this spring, which contains more Iodine and Bromine than any spring in Europe.—And, we may safely add, in any part of the World.—Dr. Cuffe, for many years late resident Physician at Woodhall Spa.

An analysis of the water having been made in November, 1886, by Professor Wanklyn, M.R.C.S., corresponding member of the Royal Bavarian Academy of Sciences, Professor of Chemistry, a very important discovery has been made, viz., the presence of Free or Elementary Iodine.

Dr. Wanklyn says—"So far as I am aware, this is the first instance in which free Iodine has been found in appreciable quantity in a natural water. For many years the Woodhall Spa has been celebrated as a valuable remedy in skin diseases. The fact that it is a solution of free Iodine is interesting in this connection, and well worthy of the attention of the medical profession."

The Woodhall Bromo Iodine Water is now being bottled at the Spring by the Sole Agents, BROMLEY & CO., Chemists, 233 High Street, 1 Lincoln, 5 & 6 The Grove, Buxton, and at Woodhall. All communications to be addressed to them at the Spa, Woodhall, Horncastle.

A. W. Carter & Co. Estd 1831
Soluble Essences for Mineral Waters
Old Refinery Bristol

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCIL.

THE topic which the members of the Pharmaceutical Council considered of greatest importance on Wednesday was the relation of the Scottish Executive to the Council; and there was a long discussion thereon. This arose on the appointment of the Board of Examiners for Scotland. Mr. Bottle pointed out that the nomination of examiners by the Executive had not been properly reported to the Council, and that a report of the proceedings of the meeting of the Executive Committee had appeared in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST a week before it appeared in *The Pharmaceutical Journal*. He further alleged that the Council had not been supplied with particulars of the qualifications of the nominated examiners, especially as regards the age qualification. Out of these objections arose the discussion on the relation of the Executive to the Council. A good deal more was made out of the point of priority of publication than it was worth. We reported that the present members of the Board of Examiners had been renominated, and the same fact was reported a week later in the transactions of the Society. Mr. Bottle and those who were with him objected to publicity being given to the fact in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, evidently forgetting that the same fact was in the official report, so that it had not been considered unconstitutional to announce it by those who are directly concerned in the matter. We may also point out that last year publicity was given to the nominations before the Council considered them, and that in the earlier years of the Branch the same publicity was given before the nominations came to the knowledge of the Council. Why an objection should be made to this course now is only explainable on the assumption that a pretext had to be found for introducing the question of reporting. The objection as to insufficient particulars regarding the nominees was scarcely serious. Mr. Bottle wanted to know how old the nominees are. This infers that some of them are so tenacious of office that they may forget when they arrive at the age of sixty-five. We have too much respect for examiners to imagine that any of them would behave so ungentlemanly as to act knowingly in opposition to the bylaws. As Mr. Hampson put it, however, the basis of the discussion was not this objection but the publication of a report of the meeting in this journal, and this report, as well as the official one, raises the question of the independence of the Executive. We pointed out a fortnight ago that the Executive is a committee of the Council, and that it was not so regarded in Scotland. The same assertion was made at the Council on Wednesday. At first Mr. Baildon, the chairman of the Executive, emphatically denied the assertion, but, after an almost unanimous expression of opinion in opposition to his own, he gave way and promised more frequent than annual reports to the Council. This is equivalent to an admission that the Executive is not independent, or, as the President put it, "the Executive is

an independently elected body, but a dependent committee," and he promises to visit Edinburgh at the next meeting to drive the fact home to the members of the Executive.

We do not see how the Scottish members can accept the position which is thus forced upon them. For a year they have existed in the belief that their position was an independent one, and that was nearly all that they fought for during two years. Will that struggle go for nothing? Knowing the tenacity with which they regard their independence in matters pharmaceutical, quiet acquiescence in the dictates of the Council now would be a poor commentary upon their previous actions.

The only other matter of importance which came before the Council was the teaching of practical pharmacy. It has been arranged, with commendable sharpness, to commence on a small scale at once, and if the experiment be successful, the teaching of the subject on a larger scale will be afterwards undertaken. There are no details of the scheme; we judge, however, from what was said in the course of discussion that it is not a stopgap but a fair beginning, and as such we may favourably regard it, leaving the advocates of practical pharmacy to watch their opportunity for advancement. The research laboratory only induced a remark from Mr. Hampson regarding the financial position of the Society, which is now receiving the close attention of the members. We call attention to the election of six annuitants and to the grants in relief which were voted at the meeting. These indicate what the fund is capable of, and as Christmas time is fruitful of Christian charity we ask the attention and the assistance of the trade towards this useful fund.

NEWLANDS REWARDED.

LEBLANC, the discoverer of the alkali process, which is now threatened with annihilation, but which has helped to make several generations happy, died a pauper. Recently his countrymen spent some thousands of francs to perpetuate his memory. Just the other day a noble duke, who is as remarkable for his theological opinions and scientific views as for his political untrustworthiness, startled English men of science by openly declaring that a better theory of the formation of coral reefs than Darwin's had been given to the world a few years ago, but that it had been boycotted out of respect for Darwin. Our Royal Society in the year 1882 awarded the Davy Medal to Mendeleeff and Lothar Meyer conjointly for their discovery of the periodic relations of the atomic weights, although our own countryman, Mr. J. A. R. Newlands, made the same discovery a decade before the foreign scientists dreamed of it. Happily the spirit of fairness is not quite dead in high places, for last week we were able to record the fact that the Royal Society had awarded a second Davy Medal for the discovery of the periodic law, and by a lucky chance it has fallen to Mr. Newlands. It was accompanied with the apology by Professor Stokes that, "while recognising the merits of chemists of other nations, we are not to forget our own countrymen; and accordingly the Davy Medal for the present year has been awarded to Mr. John A. R. Newlands, for his discovery of the periodic law of the chemical elements. Though, in the somewhat less complete form in which the law was enunciated by him, it did not at the time attract the attention of chemists, still, in so far as the work of the foreign chemists above mentioned was anticipated, the priority belongs to Mr. Newlands." We are not disposed to allow this tame apology for tardy recognition to pass without comment, for chemists have themselves to blame for the want of appreciation of their countryman's theory, and for allowing the honour to go elsewhere.

Mr. Newlands first enunciated his "law of octaves" in 1864 through the medium of the *Chemical News*, giving the law its name, however, in the following year only. By arranging the elements according to their atomic weights, he showed that there was a simple relation between them, and that the eighth element, starting from a given one, was a sort of repetition of the first—the relation being the same as exists between the extremes of one or more octaves in music. This he illustrated by the following table:—

No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
H 1	F 8	Cl 15	Co & Ni 22	Br 29	Pd 36	I 42	Pt & Ir 50
Li 2	Na 9	K 16	Cu 23	Rb 30	Ag 37	Cs 44	Tl 53
G 3	Mg 10	Ca 17	Zn 25	Sr 31	Cd 38	Ba & N 45	Pb 54
Bo 4	Al 11	Cr 19	Y 24	Ce & La 33	U 40	Th 46	Th 56
C 5	Si 12	Ti 18	In 26	Zr 32	Sn 39	W 47	Hg 52
N 6	P 13	Mn 20	As 27	Di & Mo 34	Sb 41	Nb 43	Bi 55
O 7	S 14	Fe 21	Se 28	Ro & Ru 35	Te 43	Au 49	Os 51

If this table be compared with that of Mendeleeff, which we published on November 26, it will be seen that it is arranged differently—the octaves being placed horizontally instead of vertically, as in Mendeleeff's. The idea or theory is the same in both, however, and that is the point which should be noted. In a previous table Mr. Newlands had left blanks, just as Mendeleeff did, for undiscovered elements, providing in this way for gallium and indium, elements which were afterwards discovered. He developed the theory slightly in a number of papers published in 1864-5, and in 1866 he brought it under the notice of the Chemical Society. Hitherto the matter had been unnoticed, and the paper read to the Chemical Society was the last blow to Mr. Newlands's patient theorising. In the paper the facts, substantially as we have given them, were stated, and how close the author had anticipated Mendeleeff is shown by the report (*Chem. News*, xii. 113) that, "starting from the atomic weights on Cannizzaro's system, the author arranges the known elements in order of succession, beginning with the lowest atomic weight (hydrogen) and ending with thorium (=231.15); placing, however, nickel and cobalt, platinum and iridium, cerium and lanthanum, &c., in positions of absolute equality or in the same line." Mendeleeff a few years later placed cobalt and nickel and platinum and iridium in the same positions. The spirit which was manifested towards the new theory at that time (1865) may be judged from the remarks made by Professor G. F. Foster in the discussion on Mr. Newlands's paper. He "humorously inquired of Mr. Newlands whether he had ever examined the elements according to the order of their initial letters. For he believed that any arrangement would present occasional coincidences, but he condemned one which placed so far apart manganese and chromium, or nickel from nickel and cobalt." Mr. Newlands was simply scoffed at, and the Chemical Society showed their opinion of his theory by declining to publish his paper. Only a man of steel could have survived that treatment, and it is not surprising that Mr. Newlands did not carry his theory farther. The incident is a blot in the annals of English chemical science.

Mendeleeff's theory was given to the world in 1872; it was found to be much more complete than that of Mr. Newlands. He was very decided as to what the periodic law would do for chemical sciences; Mr. Newlands had been rather speculative. It is, indeed, universally admitted that Mendeleeff's law is the working one. But the blot remains. Had Mr. Newlands received encouragement from leading chemists, he would have developed the theory to as great a degree,

perhaps, as his Russian rival, for he had shown in each of his papers some advance on previous conceptions.

If we were to judge of the catholicity of science from this little history, we should be forced to the conclusion that it is liberal with its favours to those who are recognised as leaders, but that men who are unknown must make themselves known before they can get much acceptance for their theories.

THE HOP BITTERS COMPANY'S PROSECUTIONS.

THE HOP BITTERS COMPANY (LIMITED) seem to be developing their legal crusade against chemists and other dealers with renewed vigour. In taking action to assert their rights they have, we believe, the general sympathy of the trade, so long as they limit their claims to cases where there has been obviously an attempt to trade on the reputation they have made. And that many dealers have unfairly, if not illegally, nibbled at their property is unquestionable. Labels, bottles, and formulas were sold to chemists with reckless freedom, and with something approaching a guarantee that these when united might be relied upon to deceive the public to the fullest extent compatible with the legal safety of the vendors. Some of the imitations were shamefully flagrant, and obviously calculated to rob the company of property which was fairly earned. In many other cases in which action was taken there was no such imitation, but legal questions were raised which might be fairly considered to have two sides. The company cannot be complained of for pressing with all their power the side which is most favourable to themselves. But it must be remembered that they have not yet established their rights in a court of law, and our latest information goes to show that they are taking at least full advantage of the suspense created by the long delay of the trials actually pending. We have obtained some particulars of the following

case. Mr. Alfred Mays, of South Shields, has sold a preparation bearing a label with yellow letters on a black ground, and with words as shown in the margin. The preparation was put up in square amber bottles not at all unlike those used by the company. The company tell us that there are circumstances in connection with the sale which justify them in proceeding against Mr. Mays; but what the exact details of these circumstances were they do not tell us. Mr. Mays, on the other hand, asserts that he has not sought in any way to misrepresent his preparation.

For selling that article the company serve him with a writ threatening an application for an injunction, and afterwards express their willingness to accept an apology and a certain sum as costs "for having sold a preparation which I admit to be a colourable imitation of the hop bitters prepared and sold by the Hop Bitters Company."

Now it is certain that Mr. Mays has not infringed anybody's rights by his labels; the use of the square amber bottle no doubt goes against him; the circumstances attend-

ing the sales are all matters of evidence. Whether he will pay the fine imposed, not by a Court, but by the plaintiffs in the case, we do not know. Probably he will do so rather than waste more time over the matter. But what we wish to point out is that this state of things wants settling. The managing director of the Hop Bitters Company assures us that they do not intend to prosecute except in cases where their rights are clearly infringed; but the conditions are such that they are practically from first to last the sole judges in their own cases. No sane chemist and druggist will be dragged into a costly lawsuit with them, even if he is confident of his own case, when the matter in dispute is not worth more than a pound or two a year to him. But to the whole body the right to use the English language in a fair manner is by no means insignificant, and it may soon become a question whether some combination, such as has been suggested by Mr. Haydon, of Birmingham, ought not to be formed. We have again and again given a good deal of offence to a certain section of our subscribers by maintaining that patent-medicine proprietors, whether companies or individuals, have as much right to justice as any other persons; but we are not at all inclined to abandon to them the reasonable claims which chemists and druggists may also have to compete with them.

LIQUORICE JUICE.

THE trade in liquorice juice, formerly a very flourishing one has long been in a more or less waterlogged condition, and does not show any signs at present of a return to its former prosperity. The employment of the juice in the manufacture of confectionery has of late years received a serious check by the unexampled cheapness of sugar, and unless the price of the latter commodity returns to something like the old figure, which does not seem probable, one of the principal outlets for juice will remain partly blocked. Until 1860 liquorice imported into the United Kingdom was subject to an import duty of 20s. per cwt., but in that year Mr. Gladstone freed it, along with a great many other articles of produce. It was anticipated that the removal of the duty would cause a very large expansion in the employment of the article but it does not appear that, except perhaps in the years immediately following the abolition of the tax, the consumption has increased to any exceptional extent. The best liquorice juice is manufactured in Calabria, in Southern Italy, and imported into this country principally from Naples. Sicilian juice does not stand quite so high in the market, nor does Spanish, though the public still persist in calling all varieties of liquorice by the name of "Spanish" juice. Large quantities of juice of a cheap kind are also imported from Smyrna, and in recent years our market has been inundated with a very inferior juice made in France. We understand that the principal English liquorice dealers are now endeavouring to drive this latter variety out of the market by an organised boycott. They decline to handle it in any way, alleging that the quality is so low that its sale as liquorice juice tends to bring all other kinds sold under that name into disrepute. As a matter of fact the price of the French article is very low, being only about one-third of that of good Calabrian brands. Parcels of the French juice are occasionally offered for sale in Mincing Lane at the weekly spice auctions, but it is questionable whether a broker offering such lots as "liquorice juice" would not be liable to be proceeded against under the Merchandise Marks Act or the Sale of Food and Drugs Act. The French law compels the manufacturers of the juice to brand the percentage of insoluble matter upon the sticks, and those offered in this market

HOP TONIC

FOR
GENERAL DEBILITY,
NERVOUSNESS, INDIGESTION,
BILIOUSNESS, &c.

DOSE.

For Adults, one or two table-spoonfuls, twice or three times a day, before meals.

Children should commence by taking one or two tea-spoonfuls.

PREPARED BY
ALFRED MAYS,
Dispensing Chemist,
3 MARKET PLACE,
SOUTH SHIELDS.

bear the figure "70," which renders the value of the juice clear enough to the initiated, though its meaning is probably not known to many of the consumers. The annual production of liquorice juice in Italy amounts to about 2,500,000 lbs., the bulk of which is exported, the United States, England, and Germany being the best customers. The Italian juice is sold according to the brand. There are a great many different brands, and new ones are continually springing into existence, while some of the minor ones cease to exist. Only about half-a-dozen brands, however, are of any real importance, and these have maintained their reputation for very many years. The most esteemed of all is "Solazzi," which has, in fact, become to some extent identical in the popular mind with all varieties of liquorice juice. The entire supply of Solazzi juice, of which about 1,000 to 1,200 cases are said to be manufactured every season, is now consigned to one London firm of colonial produce merchants, who quote it by wholesale quantities at about 140s. per cwt. The brand "Solazzi" is, or was until recently, the property of an Italian noble, the Prince of Piedimonte d'Alife, upon whose estates, we believe, the root is collected. It is made in a small town called Corigliano, situated on the Gulf of Tarento in Southern Italy. Another brand formerly held in high esteem in this country, but which has not been a market article here for about twenty years, is "Barracco," made by the Baron de Barracco at Cotrone. This brand is the most highly esteemed in Germany, and is also much thought of in Northern Europe. In other countries it is seldom met with. Other leading brands in Germany are the "Duca di Atri" and the "Martucci." In England the "Corigliano" and "Pignatelli" brands are generally considered to rank next to the Solazzi juice in quality. The wholesale price of the first is at present about 92s. per cwt., and that of the second about 80s. per cwt. The proprietors of these brands also are scions of the Italian nobility, the Duke of Corigliano having his works at the place whence he derives his title, and the factory of Prince Pignatelli of Strongoli being situated at Torre Cerchiora. Most brands of liquorice are produced in sticks of three different sizes, the boldest, weighing 4 oz., being generally used in this country. Some brands are also imported in slabs weighing about 6 lbs. each. The Corigliano brand is said to be the largest in point of quantity produced, but, of course, the yield varies according to the season. The principal buyers of liquorice juice are the United States, where enormous quantities are annually consumed in the manufacture of tobacco, as a preservative of the leaf and to render the chewing tobacco more palatable. The Italian juice is usually packed in cases weighing 2 cwt. each, the Spanish in boxes of half that size. In Sicily the manufacture of liquorice juice is also carried on, but on a much smaller scale than in Calabria, only a few brands coming from the island.

SPECULATION IN MINCING LANE.

THE "boom," to use an expressive though by no means elegant, Americanism, which has stirred up our produce markets since the end of November shows signs of waning. Few who looked at the sudden and unreasoning development of speculative tendencies from an unbiassed standpoint could fail to be struck with the absence of solid foundation for such enormous advances as took place in some articles within a few hours' time. When once the drug market began to move with quinine and quicksilver it was thought that the high-price times were about to return, and speculators wildly seized upon whatever article they considered "low priced," regardless of other considerations, and proceeded to gamble it up as high as possible. Chillies and

cassia lignea are cases in point. If ever there was an article in which a decided advance appeared unwarranted, cassia is one. Our stock here is sufficient to cover three years' average consumption, and is still accumulating. Consumption does not increase, but the production, according to trustworthy advices from China, is decidedly growing, and is capable of almost unlimited extension. Yet this article was drawn into the whirlpool of speculation, and forced up about 20 per cent. from its lowest point within a few days' time. The result, of course, was that at the weekly auctions an unusually large quantity was brought forward, and the advance obtained will probably be lost altogether in a few days. Chillies, the statistical position of which is the reverse of inviting, shot up like a sky-rocket, only to come down again with almost equal rapidity. Shellac has always been the pet article of speculators, and the violent fluctuations which it has experienced within the last fortnight are by no means rare in its history; but it is admitted by the speculators themselves that, although the reports concerning a short crop of sticklac and the statistical position of the article may have warranted a slight increase, its recent advance, retrogression, and renewed forward movement have been governed by quite other than statistical considerations. It is too early yet to estimate how much of the excitement in quinine has been justified by legitimate demand, but there are already indications of an ebbing tide in this important product. In London, on Thursday, there was much confidence on 'Change in the future of this article, and a further advance was actually established; in Amsterdam, at the same time, large quantities of bark were being sold, as our cablegram shows, at a fractional reduction of the rate per unit of quinine. There has been probably some actual increase of legitimate orders for quinine, due to the reduction of the large stocks stored two years ago on the sudden breakdown of the syndicate which had then been formed; but it must be remembered that there are large stocks of bark in Ceylon awaiting shipment, and that the report of the improvement of the market is certain to bring some of these forward.

Speculative movements and sudden fluctuations in the prices in articles of consumption cannot be beneficial to the business community at large, although they may put money in the pockets of a few Mincing Lane brokers, unless it be that some of the money thus secured has been lost by those outsiders who, not knowing quicksilver from quinine or borax from shellac, periodically invade the drug market when they hear that there is "something good going on" in Mincing Lane.

Getting Orders Fraudulently. The judges are coming to take very strong but quite sensible views about the methods adopted by some of the very 'cute travellers of the North to get orders. The judgment we reported in our last issue in the Sheffield County Court, in the action brought by the "Yorkshire Veterinary Patent Medicine Manufacturing Company" against a Liverpool tradesman, is a severe lesson for travellers and their employers who seek to obtain orders by other than perfectly legitimate persuasion. The evidence adduced went to show that the shopkeepers who bought the articles were intentionally led to believe that they were to be merely agents on sale or return; in this faith they signed forms which went further than the mere acceptance of agency, and ultimately they were sued for the total value of the goods supplied. The Sheffield judge said this was "a deliberately preconceived and systematic fraud," and he gave a verdict for the defendants. This was satisfactory; but it is, after all, to some extent an unusual judgment. As a rule signed contracts are sacred in law courts, and it is a very difficult business to prove fraud. Therefore, though the case is a lesson to over-zealous sellers, it should be noted by all business men who are

subject to the visits of unknown travellers with new goods. It is not necessary to churlishly refuse to have anything to do with a person or an article that is new; but it is important to be very careful indeed about signing orders or contracts of any kind, and it is wise to absolutely refuse to sign any which are or appear to be ambiguous.

* *

We much regret to publish in our Paris correspondence of this week the record of the death of the well-known pharmacien, Dr. Méhu. M. Méhu had the highest reputation in all circles where pharmaceutical attainments could be appreciated, for his thorough scientific acquaintance with chemistry in its relation to medicine. His many labours manifested this knowledge, and won for him the highest respect. Besides the subjects named by our correspondent it



may be mentioned that a few years since Dr. Méhu translated "Sutton's Volumetric Analysis" into French. M. Méhu never attained wide personal popularity; he was reserved in public, and seemed to be somewhat cynical. But he was deeply loved in a narrow circle, and will be much missed in the ranks of French pharmacy. We happen to know that he was extremely gratified by his election as an honorary member of the British Pharmaceutical Society last May. We reproduce now the portrait of him which we published on that occasion.

* *

New York
Peppermint
Speculators.

A short time ago representations were made to the head of the United States Treasury department asking him to allow the free importation in bond of Japanese peppermint oil into the United States, and to permit certain New York firms to repack the Japanese oil (which is generally placed on the market in 16 oz packages) into bottles of the same capacity as those in which oil of the H. G. Hotchkiss and other American distillers has been exported for many years. The request was supported by several influential New York traders, and the authorities, probably without bestowing much serious thought upon the question, readily gave their consent. It is difficult to think that the petitioners could have any other object in view than to put up Japanese oil in packages resembling as nearly as possible those which for years have been affected by the American makers. As soon as the American peppermint growers heard of the matter they resolved to take steps to obtain the repeal of the Treasury decree, and a petition has been put into circulation in Wayne County, N.Y., protesting against the entrance of the Japanese oil. When a sufficient number of signatures have been obtained the petition will be presented to the Secretary of the Treasury. The Wayne County people point out that since the commencement of peppermint growing in the States over fifteen millions of dollars' worth of Wayne County oil has been exported to Europe.

* *

Sweet
Spirits of
Nitric.

The Sale of Food and Drugs Act is being applied to the sale of sweet spirit of nitre in a new fashion. Mr. A. H. Allen predicted some time ago that the court decisions regarding the spirits might yet be turned against chemists in a way they

little calculated for, and his prediction is being verified. The irrepressible Dr. Campbell-Brown, having evidently worn out pepperetted-pepper, has turned his attention to sweet spirits of nitre, and knowing evidently that previous decisions would embarrass prosecutions now, his officers ask for spirit of nitrous ether. There can be no question of the fact that by this is meant the spirit of the British Pharmacopœia, but it has been proved that the public do not like this spirit, and it is well known that retail sales of it as such are not only most unusual, but almost unknown. This probably explains why some chemists have unwarily given sweet spirits of nitre when spirit of nitrous ether has been asked for. We therefore call attention to the matter. When such unusual demands are made, the seller should carefully question the purchaser and ascertain clearly what is required. Another point is that, however, carefully alcoholic solutions of nitrous ether have been prepared they rapidly deteriorate, especially when kept in partially filled bottles. It is better to buy or store the spirit in 1-lb. bottles rather than in half-gallon bottles, and the shop round should be of the smaller series and kept on the lowest shelf.

CHEWING-GUM.

By JOHN MOSS, F.I.C., F.C.S.

THIS compound has recently become interesting from its appearance in the police court, and having had occasion not long ago to make an examination of it, a note of my experience may be an addition to our growing knowledge of the confection.

I purchased some from British makers, and also got samples direct from the United States. The latter is the country where it originated, and where it has exercised and still exercises the masticatory muscles of still toothless infancy, and again of toothless old age. It is met with in various forms, of which the most common are tablets chamfered for convenient subdivision, and small columns 2 inches long and about $\frac{5}{16}$ of an inch thick.

Whatever the shape, all are done up in gaily coloured and embossed paper, bearing names which are the outcome of a lively fancy—"Taffy Tolu," "Suprota Tolu."

The British sweet is got up in imitation of its American cousin, but the relation is no closer, as one discovers on chewing them. The American sweet is harder, tougher, and more homogeneous, and finds perpetual work for the teeth or gums for hours before it is ejected as a tasteless and hardly diminished mass. True, on first chewing a very few minutes suffices to remove all the soluble matter, but for two hours afterwards labour seems to be vainly expended in the attempt to dispose of the remainder. After this the most striking symptom is acute jawache for two days. The British article cannot be looked at with a deep sense of satisfaction. It is thinner to chew, the teeth do not seem to get hold of it so completely or to be content with the resistance it offers, and after a time a chaotic piece of paraffin, more or less crumbly, is all that remains in the mouth.

The specimens of American "Taffy" which I analysed gave in round numbers 66 per cent. of sugar and soluble gum, 4 per cent. of resin (tolu), and 30 per cent. of what I at first put down to be guttapercha, and afterwards recognised as the indurated juice of a Mexican sapotaceous plant, the *Mimus ps Balata* of Scortner. It is known as balata, as gum-chick, and as chewing-gum. At the conference meeting in Manchester I visited the famous exhibition, under the wing of Mr. Kemp, and there recognised balata as a crude material which was being converted before our eyes, after sundry processes of purification and mechanical digestions, into shapely boot soles.

With regard to the conviction for selling chewing-gum under that popular name (and the British article as well as the American probably contains some soluble gum), the common-sense remarks thereon of Mr. Abraham and Mr. Conroy will commend themselves to everyone who reflects that the articles sold under the quasi-scientific names of gum shellac, gum damar, gum kino, &c., have not yet been the cause of prosecution on that account.

How will the Merchandise Marks Act affect this kind of thing?

LONDON CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of this Association was held on Thursday evening, at nine o'clock. At that hour the audience numbered seventeen (afterwards increased by three), and the President, Mr. Dymond, occupied the chair. The business of the evening was an address by Mr. S. R. Atkins, which he entitled

THE PRESENT ASPECTS OF PHARMACEUTICAL POLITICS.

After congratulating the Association on its progress, and on having got rid of the opposition which was directed against it by pharmaceutical leaders in its earlier days, he said that he would now press on their thoughtful consideration the claims of the Pharmaceutical Society, which lately had been vigorously assailed in certain quarters. He was not surprised at that, for, considering that the Society was represented in the common mind by the Council and the Board of Examiners, it followed that those who had been rejected on examination would not look on the Society with favour. Moreover, the severe and increasing competition to which pharmacy was subjected engendered opposition to authority. He wished to point out that the Pharmaceutical Council were powerless to combat such opposition, though they would do so if they could, and that the competition could not be controlled by law. Pharmacists, he maintained, had a case against public sentiment and legal dicta, which denied that protection which should go with enforced qualification. Enlarging on this point, Mr. Atkins proceeded to show that it was almost hopeless to expect that the case for pharmacists could be properly presented in the House of Commons. Many thought that what they wanted was restriction of trade, and this view was entertained in many other trades. Another element which helped to depreciate the remuneration of pharmacists was the beneficent influences which had followed the establishment of better sanitary laws, improved dwellings, and the like. These meant prevention of disease, consequently less of the curative element, and a smaller demand for the pharmacist's services. On the whole Mr. Atkins attributed the present condition of pharmacy to a number of causes—not solely to the stores.

Education was the subject next taken up. The Pharmaceutical Council had increased the status of that by making the examinations more stringent. That was a source of grumbling, but Mr. Atkins considered it illogical, for, if less education were required, more men would enter the trade, and competition would be fiercer. It was a mistake, in his opinion, to shorten the period of training, for success would be in relation to the quality and duration of the earlier training. This idea having been briefly developed, the speaker turned again to the Pharmaceutical Council and its transactions, especially commenting upon its habit of going into committee. He was one of those who had fought for the admission and representation of the pharmaceutical press to the meetings of the Council, so that what he had to say on the committee proceedings had a certain weight. He maintained that it was inexpedient to conduct everything in public. There were the interests of their constituents and the feelings of individuals to be considered. He admitted that they sometimes acted with needless caution, but he had often felt thankful for the existence of the committee expedient, and his reply to critics was that, if they did not like the way in which their representatives worked, they should supply better men. He then proceeded to explain the manner in which the Council works, and from that went on to speak of the pharmaceutical centre at Bloomsbury Square and the new buildings. The Society was an educating and examining body. Some said it ought only to be the latter; but he held that education was its most important function, and, as such, that it should develop into a true pharmaceutical university. Their efforts should be directed to make the teaching as thorough as possible. This depended on three things: First, a staff of competent teachers; second, a properly equipped building; and third, a curriculum of sufficient length to exhaust the subjects of study. This led to a eulogium on the Bloomsbury School, though the speaker wished to remark parenthetically that there were other good schools conducted by able men, and he considered that rivalry of schools

was good for students. Mr. Atkins then went on to remark on the increased facilities which were to be arranged for the teaching of pharmacy, and from this he passed to some remarks on the proposed Research Laboratory. This, he said, would have to be limited by the available resources of the Society. They would, he hoped, carry out a tentative scheme. He was an enthusiastic admirer of original research, and wished the Society was in a position to lay humanity under obligations; but the prosaic consideration came in that they had not got the money. In all their schemes they had to take into account the supineness of the members of their body to work of the widest and highest interest, and the senseless opposition which they met with to the Society, or rather to its executive—the Council. Those whom he addressed—the pharmacists of the future—would, he hoped, do all they could to remove the antagonism which existed. It must be remembered that the Society had statutory authority for their existence—they were, in fact, an integral part of the government of the country, and their dissentient friends were not likely to get rid of them. The fate of another society—he would scarcely say a rival society—now defunct, showed that there was little room for it, though in saying this he did not wish to reflect on the Defence Agency conducted by Messrs. Haydon and Glaisyer. He considered that the Pharmaceutical Society ought to protect its members in all their assailed interests. His business life lay chiefly in the past. Those before him would have the disadvantage of facing a competition of intellect which the previous generation had no acquaintance with, but they had the advantage of the opportunities of scientific training which had never been before offered, and they would succeed, with Heaven's blessing and with proper business capabilities, just in proportion to their fitness. For their future success they had his best wishes.

Mr. INCE, in a lengthy speech, moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Atkins. In the course of his remarks he condemned with some warmth the tendency and the desire for full reports of the proceedings of the Pharmaceutical Council. He was aware that some of his best friends advocated such reports, but if he were in committee he would say that he abominated such reports. They only led to men speaking with a view of being reported. He was convinced the Council would conduct their business with greater comfort to themselves, and with at least as much efficiency, if their proceedings were not so fully reported. Alluding to the extension of the teaching duties of the Society, Mr. Ince expressed his opinion that the reason why English schools could not compare with those of the Continent was that the preliminary education of the students was inferior.

Mr. BLACKHAM seconded the vote of thanks, and relieved the solemnity of the meeting by a humorous speech. He liked these votes of thanks, in which it was permitted to the speakers to criticise the speech, and, while he regarded Mr. Atkins's address as a literary treat, he found in it many matters with which he did not agree. He especially commented on Mr. Atkins's reference to the senseless hostility to the Pharmaceutical Society. This was hardly the way to meet opponents half-way—it was rather like hitting them on the head.

Mr. ATKINS, in replying, thanked Mr. Blackham for his criticism, and particularly desired to say that, in using the expression, "senseless hostility," he did not mean anything like rudeness to opponents. He simply meant opposition which was not based on reason.

DR. CHARLES A. ROBBINS, vice-president of the New York Quinine and Chemical Works (Limited), arrived in Europe last week on business connected with his firm.

Mr. J. F. FLETCHER, representative of Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool, has just contributed five guineas to the Pharmaceutical Benevolent Fund.

Mr. GREENISH hurt the feelings of some of the prominent New York pharmacists during his recent visit to the United States. They say they wanted to give him a banquet, but that they could not catch him, either personally or by correspondence. And yet the New York banquets are reported to be very good ones. There is a mistake somewhere.

Trade Report.

Notice to Retail Buyers:—It should be remembered that the quotations in this section are invariably the lowest net cash prices actually paid for large quantities in bulk. In many cases allowances have to be added before ordinary prices can be ascertained. Frequently goods must be picked and sorted to suit the demands of the retail trade, causing much labour and the accumulation of rejections, not all of which are suitable, even for manufacturing purposes.

It should also be recollected that for many articles the range of quality is very wide.

42 CANNON STREET, E.C., December 8.

AS regards fluctuations in the drug and chemical markets the week which has elapsed since our last report has certainly been a most remarkable one. Speculation, often without rhyme or reason, has momentarily inflated the prices of a large number of articles, but many have already returned to their former position, while others have partly receded. Only a few articles have fully maintained top prices, and these are mostly the ones which have been steadily and slowly improving for some time, such as, for instance, camphor and China galls. Quicksilver is almost where it stood before. Quinine has improved, but closes somewhat unsettled. Morphia is very weak. Pyrogallic and tannic acids have improved with the raw material. Citric acid fluctuating, tartaric firmer. Heavy chemicals mostly unchanged, but chlorate of potash and borax are decidedly firmer. Soda crystals lower. Antimony has advanced. The drysalery sales were disappointing. It was generally believed that shellac would improve at the auctions, but the contrary occurred, and afterwards "bear" sales for arrival brought about a decided weakness, though at the close prices are as firm as ever. Gambier and cochineal are dearer. Oil of peppermint (HGH) is lower for arrival, and so is star-anise oil. In menthol, however, business has been done at an important advance. The cinchona sales resulted in a sharp advance, which, however, appears to have been barely maintained at to-day's Amsterdam auctions. Spices were taken up by speculators, but have all been quickly dropped again, except pimento, which closes dearer. Fixed oils mostly quiet, but turpentine and petroleum dearer.

The Board of Trade returns for November disclose an eminently satisfactory condition of trade. During that month we imported goods to the value of 32,850,321*l.*, against 33,050,955*l.* in November, 1886, a decrease of about 1 per cent., of which a good production falls under the heading of "manufactured articles." Our exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures were 19,177,361*l.*, against 17,569,692*l.* in November, 1886, an increase of 9 per cent., entirely made up of manufactured goods, principally textiles and hardware. Of chemicals our exports increased from 542,677*l.* in November, 1886, to 622,959*l.* last month. Our re-exports of foreign and colonial produce advanced over 7 per cent., from 3,869,976*l.* to 4,135,270*l.*

The views expressed in our Editorial note on free trade movements abroad have been strikingly corroborated by the message of President Cleveland, in which the necessity of a sweeping reduction on the import duties is pointed out. Whether the views embodied in the message will be acceptable to the American people is of course as yet a moot point, but at any rate, and in spite of the President's declaration that the reform proposals do not affect the question of protection or free trade as a system, there is little doubt that the issue will be fought out squarely at the next election. Whatever might be the ultimate result upon British trade, there is no doubt that the immediate effect of a reduction in the American tariff would be to considerably stimulate our drug and chemical markets.

Further particulars are now to hand concerning the recent increase of the Russian Customs duties on pharmaceutical articles. The duties, which came into force on November 9/21 last, are as follows:—Plants and parts of plants used in medicine, 0.50 rouble per pood; cloves, cinnamon, pepper,

ginger, star-anise, and all other species not enumerated, 3 roubles per pood; patent medicines, prepared, of which the importation has been permitted, 20 roubles per pood. The duties are levied in gold, 1 rouble equalling 3*s.* 3½*d.*. A pood is 36½*lb.*

ACID (CITRIC).—Until the middle of the present week the advance mentioned in our last report continued to make progress, 1*s.* 9½*d.* per lb. being paid on the spot, and 1*s.* 10*d.* for forward delivery. A large business was done at these figures, especially for export; but the article closes quieter, with sellers at 1*s.* 9½*d.* on the spot, and 1*s.* 9½*d.* forward. *Lemon juice* is dearer, and the holders, being few and strong, are unwilling to part unless at high rates, 22*l.* to 22½*l.* 10*s.* f.o.b. Messina being named.

ACID (OXALIC) steady, and in demand at 4*d.* per lb. *Sal acetos* is held at 6*d.* per lb.

ACID (TARTARIC) has advanced in sympathy with citric. It closes with a steady market, at 1*s.* 7*d.* for *English* and 1*s.* 6½*d.* for *Foreign* on the spot.

ALUM quiet and without much demand, at 6*l.* for ground and 5*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per ton for loose lump, nominally.

AMMONIA COMPOUNDS.—*Carbonate* much neglected, at 4*l.* per lb. less a heavy discount. *Sal ammoniac* quiet and unchanged at 34*s.* per cwt. for firsts and 32*s.* for seconds. *Sulphate* firm at 11*l.* 15*s.* for Beekton. Hull quotes 11½*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* for 24 per cent. grey; Leith, 11½*l.* 10*s.*

ANISE.—Business is very steady and holders are firm, *Russian* seed being held at 21*s.* to 24*s.* per cwt. *Spanish* is quoted at 50*s.* to 53*s.* per cwt.

ANTIMONY has advanced, 38*l.* to 40*l.* being quoted.

ARSENIC firm, at 11*s.* 3*d.* per cwt. for white powder.

BLEACHING-POWDER.—Without much activity in the market, the price is well maintained at 8*l.* 15*s.* in London, and 7*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* on the Tync. We give elsewhere a report of the paper read by Prof. Dewar at the Society of Chemical Industry, this week, on the new Weldon-Pechiney process for the manufacture of chlorine from magnesium chloride. This process is now successfully in operation at Salindres, and may in future exercise an important influence on the price of bleaching-powder and chlorates in consequence of its applicability to the manufacture of chloride from waste magnesium chloride at Stassfurt. It must be remembered, however, that the present price is fixed by agreement among the alkali manufacturers.

BORAX has been an article in which speculators have dabbled a good deal since our last report. It is stated that the stock at Liverpool has been reduced almost to nothing, and as much as 35*l.* has been paid in London for certain brands, although other English and German makes are obtainable at 30*l.* The market closes less firm.

BROMINE.—No price has yet been fixed in Germany. Howard's quotation for *potassium bromide* is at present 1*s.* 6*d.* per lb., but German offers somewhat lower.

CAMPHOR (CRUDE).—The advance makes steady progress, 250 tubs *Japan* being quoted on the spot at 85*s.* per cwt.

CAMPHOR (REFINED).—The manufacturers have made a further change in the quotations; *bellis* are quoted at 1*s.* 2*d.*, and tablets at 1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 5*d.*, according to size.

CANARY SEED.—Prices are practically unchanged, but business is rather restricted, as the recent advance in *Turkish* seed has had the effect of checking the demand, and the export business to Northern ports has been partly suspended in consequence of the close of the navigation. The combined imports of *Turkish* and *Dutch* seed in London since our last report are about 2,000 bales, of which, however, hardly anything came into the market, as the seed had to be delivered in fulfilment of recent contracts. No inclination is felt here to pay the *Turkish* prices for forward delivery, especially as *Dutch* seed, which is relatively the better value of the two, is to be had at 46*s.* to 49*s.* per 464 lbs. for small to bold grain; good *Turkish* costs 45*s.* to 47*s.* *Sicilian* is entirely out of market; *Morocco* neglected at 49*s.* to 52*s.*; *Spanish* firm at 52*s.* to 54*s.* *English* unchanged, but quantities on offer are small.

CARAWAY SEED.—The demand has improved, and values have slightly advanced. *Dutch* seed is now held at 23s. to 29s., *Russian* at 23s., and *Mogadore* at 24s. per cwt.

CASSIA LIGNEA.—Shortly after last week's spice auctions speculators turned their attention to the article, and at the close of the week it was estimated that about 30,000 cases had changed hands, the price being thereby forced up from 23s. to 27s. 6d. per cwt. on the spot. For arrival 24s. c.i.f. was paid, and 18s. for broken quill on the spot. At the auctions 2,172 boxes were offered, but the whole was bought in, the rates paid privately being quite unobtainable. The statistical position of the article certainly does not appear to warrant any important rise. At the end of last week our stock amounted to 109,877 packages, against 108,317 packages on December 3, 1886. The arrivals were, January 1 to December 3, 1887, 34,962 packages, against 51,534 in the same period of 1886; the deliveries respectively 31,084 and 39,666 packages. Since the sales a large business has been done to arrive at 24s. to 25s. c.i.f.

CHAMOMILES.—A fair demand has prevailed for *Belgian* flowers, and prices close very firm at the recent quotations. The old crop parcels have now mostly been bought up, and it is thought likely that in the beginning of next month greater attention may be paid to the article.

CHILLIES advanced from 26s., the price quoted in our last report, to 40s. for good bright *Zanzibar*, owing to a sudden speculative demand. At the weekly auctions, however, when no less than 1,823 bags were offered, the values declined with almost equal rapidity, fair to bright selling at 28s. 6d. to 30s. per cwt.

CINCHONA.—The result of the fortnightly auctions held on Tuesday justified the general expectation. The catalogues included a rather more extensive assortment than at the previous sales, viz., 3,796 packages, of which over 2,000 found buyers. It should, however, be noted that the unsold portion consisted almost entirely of South American bark. Competition was pretty active throughout the sales, with the exception, perhaps, of the last catalogue. It seemed as if the German buyers obtained a comparatively very small proportion of the lots sold, the bulk being secured by English manufacturers and by firms operating for Italian and American houses. The unit averaged fully 2½d., against about 2d. at the previous auctions. All varieties except South American sold with a good deal of spirit. The following prices were paid:—**CEYLON BARK.**—*Succirubra*, branch 2½d.; chips, common to good strong, 3d. to 8½d.; spoke shavings, 4d. to 7d.; root, 2½d. to 6d.; quill, broken and dull, 5d. to 8d.; long bold druggists', 1s. 1d.; renewed, 3½d. to 7½d.; fair to fine rich, chiefly shavings, 8d. to 1s. 2d. *Officinalis*, branch, 1d. to 4½d.; chips, 3d. to 9d.; spoke shavings, 6½d. to 8d.; root, 6½d. to 1s.; renewed, 6½d. to 1s. 8d. *Hybrid*, &c., branch, 1½d. to 4½d.; chips, 2½d. to 7d.; renewed, 4d. to 1s. 5d. **EAST INDIAN BARK.**—*Succirubra*, branch, 3d. to 6½d.; spoke shavings, 6d. to 7½d.; root, 2d. to 3½d.; chips, 4d. to 4½d.; quill, broken to good but irregular druggists', 7d. to 1s.; renewed, 5½d. to 10½d. **JAVA BARK.**—*Ledgeriana*, dusty branch and chips to fine quilly chips, 2d. to 9½d. *Succirubra*, root, 11d.; fine bold quills, 1s. 7d. per lb. **SOUTH AMERICAN BARK.**—*Calisaya* bark from the Bolivian plantations, common broken to fair quill, 6d. to 10½d. *Cuprea*, 3d. to 5½d.; soft to fine *Columbian*, 4d. to 1s.

CLOVES.—Soon after last week's auctions the prices rallied, owing to a speculative demand, and since then good *Zanzibar* have realised up to 11d. per lb. on the spot, 10d. for November-December, and 9½d. for December-January, landed terms. But at the public sales the advance was partly lost, *Zanzibar* selling at 10½d. to 10½d. for medium to fairly good. Middling rather dark Penang sold up to 12½d. per lb., which is dearer.

COCAINE has undergone no alteration in price. *German* brands are quoted at 10d. per gramme.

COCHINEAL.—Prices have suddenly advanced, and close about 2d. per lb. dearer; grey and black *Teneriff*, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d., and good silver at 1s. 2d. per lb. The sales within a few days amounted to nearly 1,200 bags, or, say, one fourth of our stock, which on December 3 was 4,878 bags, against 6,702 the year before. Our imports up to December 3 were 3,554 bags, against 5,278 in the corresponding period of 1886,

and the deliveries respectively 5,489 and 6,241 bags. There is thus, judging by these figures, some warrant for the advance, especially as the price is still below last year's.

COPPER (SULPHATE).—Although the copper market closes again dearer, sulphate has remained practically unchanged, the closing quotation being still 20l. for first "Mint."

CORIANDER SEED is in small supply, but no exceptional demand having been manifested, prices remain at 11s. to 16s. per cwt. for fair to fine seed.

CREAM OF TARTAR is still obtainable at last week's quotation of 12l. 6s. 10d. on the spot for first white.

CUMIN.—No change has occurred since our last report. *Maltese* seed is held at 48s. to 49s., *East Indian* at 35s.

FENUGREEK SEED.—The demand for *Morocco* seed is pretty brisk, and our stocks are very small, but the new crop of *Egyptian* seed is offering in plenty. The former is quoted at 8s. to 8s. 6d., the latter at 6s. to 6s. 6d. per cwt.

GALLS.—More firmness has been shown for *Chinese* galls, of which parcels were taken at prices rising from 70s. to 72s. 6d. per cwt. on the spot, to 63s. 6d. c.i.f. for a steamer shipment now afloat, at which rates a considerable business has been done. The crop, both in China and in the Levant, is said to be much below last year's. German manufacturers have advanced their quotations for tannic, gallic, and pyrogallic acid by 10 per cent.

GAMBIER.—The advancing tendency mentioned in our last report has been well maintained, 22s. 10½d. per cwt. having been paid for November-December shipment. At the auctions 420 bales *block*, new arrival, were sold at 23s. 9d. per cwt. Ninety bags free *cabs* were taken out without mention of price. After the sales prices have advanced still further, closing quotations (at which business has been done) being November-December, 23s. 3d.

GENTIAN ROOT.—In Northern Italy there is very little offering, but the demand is also restricted, and the price remains nominal at 17s. per cwt.

GINGER.—Privately a very good demand existed, and *Bengal* changed hands at an advance of fully 4s. per cwt., say 18s. per cwt. spot, and 17s. c.i.f. for arrival. The excitement, however, was of short duration. At the auctions a very quiet tone prevailed. *Cochin* sold at 35s. for good small cut, and down to 19s. for wormy ends. *Limed Japan*, 15s. 6d.

GLYCERINE.—The manufacturers still quote from 82l. to 85l. per ton for s.g. 1.260. Second-hand parcels are becoming scarcer, and it is said that they realise very nearly the same prices as quoted by the manufacturers.

GUM ANIMI.—*Zanzibar* animi remains lifeless; only 35 cases were catalogued, but not a single one was sold. Of *Demerara* animi 13 packages were disposed of at 9l. 17s. 6d. for good bold sorts, pale and amber mixed, 4l. 17s. 6d. to 5l. 17s. 6d. for fair to good unwashed sorts, 90s. for small reddish pieces.

GUM ARABIC.—The auctions to-day were rather limited in extent, including only slightly over 1,500 packages, of which the bulk was bought in. Bidding was not at all animated, and although the small proportion sold brought about previous prices, the tone prevailing at the sales was a languid one. The following prices were paid:—*Australian* gum, fair red drop, 77s.; dark and woody mixed, 69s. to 69s. 6d. per cwt. *African*: Good brown Barbary, 5l. 10s. to 6l.; a few parcels *Mogadore* and *Egyptian* Amrad gum were bought in. *East Indian* Amrad sold at 75s. to 82s. 6d. for dark-red mixed to fair palish brown, 5l. 15s. to 6l. 4s. for fair to good soft amber, 7l. to 7l. 17s. 6d. for fine pale to bold. Oomrah, at 97s. 6d. to 100s. for glassy drop, 50s. 6d. to 55s. 6d. for red, 28s. for siftings, and 20s. to 49s. for pickings. Ghatty, fair brownish to good pale, 59s. to 67s. 6d.

GUM COPAL flat. About 400 packages *Manilla* were offered, but only a very small quantity sold, at 25s. for small chips mixed with block.

GUM DAMAR quiet, and without much demand. Only a few lots out of the 360 packages catalogued were sold; good *Batavian* at 90s. per cwt. *Singapore* damar all bought in at nominal rates.

GUM KOWRIE.—The public sales held to-day comprised a very large quantity of this gum, viz., 1,519 cases, nearly the whole of which sold at high rates, ordinary grades being especially well competed for. Very fine pale to superior transparent gum sold at 9*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* to 11*s.* 15*s.*; fine at 5*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; fair selected amber to good selected, 76*s.* to 96*s.*; brown but well scraped, 63*s.* to 72*s.* 6*d.*; fair, partly scraped to good pale three-fourths scraped, 61*s.* to 71*s.*; ordinary hard rough small or soft, 54*s.* to 56*s.*; pale pickings, 49*s.* 6*d.* to 52*s.*; ordinary dark to good chips, 46*s.* to 68*s.*; ordinary to fine chippy dust, 14*s.* 6*d.* to 45*s.* per cwt.

GUM OLIBANUM.—The situation remains unchanged, and holders would have to come down in order to be able to realise. At to-day's auctions 177 packages were all bought in, good palish Aden drop at 55*s.* per cwt.

GUM SANDARAC.—Privately business has been done at 70*s.* per cwt. for good pale, little dusty.

INSECT FLOWERS.—*Dalmatian* flowers remain firm, at 230*s.* for open, 242*s.* for half open, and 256*s.* for closed flowers, London terms. It has been stated, although in other quarters it is denied, that the principal Dalmatian dealers some time ago combined and bought up all the stock in the hands of small growers, and have since screwed up the prices. When the new crop comes, if the combination holds out until that time, they will be forced either to buy the fresh supply from the farmers, or to submit to be undersold by the latter. The *Med-terranean* brought us 109 packages from Trieste this week.

IODINE.—No change has so far been made in the convention price, but threatening rumours are heard, as usual. The quotation is 9*d.* per oz. for *crude*, 10½*d.* per oz. for *resublimed*, and 11*s.* 3*d.* per lb. for *potassium iodide*.

JUNIPER BERRIES.—In Italy the price has been run up to 13*s.* per cwt. within a short time, partly in consequence of speculative demand, and partly owing to orders from abroad. Even at these rates there is little offering.

LEAD (ACETATE).—Although best white foreign is not yet offering very liberally, a slight reduction in price would perhaps be accepted, say 27*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. for the best quality.

LINSEED unaltered, and bought only for hand to mouth requirements. *English* is quoted at 48*s.* to 49*s.*; *Italian*, 45*s.* to 46*s.*; *Dutch*, 43*s.* to 44*s.*; *Hungarian*, 40*s.*; and *East Indian*, 39*s.* for Bombay and 37*s.* 6*d.* for Calcutta seed.

MERCURIALS.—The constantly fluctuating quotations for quicksilver render it impossible for manufacturers to quote firm, but the following are the latest prices given:—*Ca omel*, 3*s.* 7*d.*; *corrosive sublimate*, 2*s.* 11*d.*; *precipitate*, red or white, 3*s.* 8*d.*; *ointment*, 2*s.* 4*d.*; *blue pill*, 2*s.* 2*d.*; *English vermillion*, 3*s.* 2*d.* per lb.

MORPHIA may be described as tending lower. The manufacturers do not quote beyond 7*s.* nominally, but they would probably be prepared to accept a good deal less.

MUSK.—A case was imported this week *viâ* Marseilles, per *Tamis*, and three cases per *Clyde*, *viâ* Colombo.

MUSTARD SEED.—The demand for *white* English seed is rather better, but prices remain at 8*s.* to 11*s.* per bushel. *Brown* East Indian firm.

NUTMEGS made an advance of about 3*d.* per lb. all round between our last report and this week's spice sales, *Penang* (116 to 110) selling at 2*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 5*d.* per lb. At the auctions, however, the improvement was entirely lost. *Penang* (81 to 111) sold at 2*s.* 10*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.* *West India* (81 to 103), 2*s.* 10*d.* to 2*s.* 2*d.*; (118 to 170), 1*s.* 11*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* per lb.

OIL (CASTOR).—In Liverpool fair quantities of second *Madras* sold at 2½*d.* to 2½½*d.* per lb.

OIL (COD-LIVER).—The demand has somewhat subsided; indeed, at the far-end of the year dealers can scarcely be expected to replenish their stock. The prices quoted last week are still the ruling ones.

OIL (OLIVE).—The market remains quiet, but the reports from the producing districts seem to indicate that, if any change occurs, it will be rather in a direction towards higher than towards lower prices. *Spanish* oil is quoted at 37*l.* nominally. *Messina* at 35*l.*, and *Mogadore* at 33*l.* 10*s.* to 34*l.* From Italy we hear that there is no longer any

doubt that the Gallipoli, Taranto, Brindisi, Monopoli, and Rossano districts will give but poor crops—not over one-fourth on the aggregate; but hopes are still generally entertained that the Gioja crop will be a good one, although some of the reports lately received from that district are less favourable, and a continuation of the present warm and damp weather might entail a considerable reduction on the yield of this crop also. In any case, with the prospective increase in the local consumption consequent on the new protective duties, the supplies of olive oil available for export are not as all likely to be in excess of requirements, and nothing in Italy appears to justify the continued sales of the local speculators. On November 30 the Naples market closed weaker.

OILS (ESSENTIAL).—Oil of *Almonds* continues to be quoted at 25*s.* per cwt. *Alise (Star)* is tending firmer on the spot, 7*s.* 6*d.* per lb. having been paid in that position. For arrival, however, lower prices have been ruled, 6*s.*, and afterwards 5*s.* 10*d.*, c.i.f. terms, having been accepted. Now, however, there seem to be buyers again at 6*s.* *Cassia* oil has advanced, 3*s.* 1*d.* having been paid on the spot, and 2*s.* 7*d.* per lb. c.i.f. forward. *Cinnamon* and *Cinnamon leaf* unchanged. *Citronella* oil remains quiet and neglected; on the spot native is still held at ¾*d.* to 1½*d.* per oz. Thus far this article has not been affected by the speculative movement. Oil of *Cloves*, *English* drawn, was quoted at 6*s.* 3*d.* per lb. before cloves were seized upon by speculators; at present the price would, perhaps, be slightly higher. Italian essential oils are in better demand at higher rates, on account of the lateness of the new fruit crop. There will be no essential oils (new crop) here before the end of January next, and meanwhile manufacturing confectioners and mineral-water makers are wanting stock for Christmas supply. *Lemon* sells readily at 5*s.* to 6*s.*; *Sweet orange*, at 5*s.* 9*d.* to 6*s.* 6*d.*; *Bitter orange*, at 13*s.* 6*d.* to 15*s.*; and *Bergamot* (very steady), from 8*s.* 6*d.* to 9*s.* 6*d.* *Le-mongrass* oil quiet, at 2*d.* per c*z.* In *Otto of rose* no change has occurred, 20*s.* 6*d.* per oz. f.o.b. Constantinople being still quoted for fine oil. *Peppermint* oil unaltered for *English*, but *American* (HGH) is offering at lower rates for forward delivery, 11*s.* 6*d.* London terms being solicited. On the spot small sales are still made at 12*s.* 6*d.* per lb.

A lively demand for *Menthol crystals* has resulted in an advance of price nominally to 8*s.* per lb., but it is stated that there are offers to sell at 7*s.* per lb. forward. The agents for Cocking's brand are unwilling to quote any price at present. Other brands are said to have sold up to 7*s.* 6*d.* per lb. on the spot. Oil of *Pimento* is held now at 12*s.* per lb.

OILS (FIXED).—*Cocoonut* quiet, Ceylon being still obtainable at 23*l.* 15*s.* for fine. *Cochin* is quoted at 30*l.* to 32*l.* for good to fine, and Mauritius nominally at 25*l.* 10*s.* New crude *Cottonseed* oil is somewhat cheaper, 18*l.* 5*s.* being the quotation on the spot, and 18*l.* for January-April. Refined oil is rather dearer at 20*l.* 10*s.* to 21*l.* on the spot; 18*l.* for January-April; Hull spot, 19*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; December-April, 18*l.* 10*s.*; crude spot, 17*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* *Linseed* oil is somewhat firmer, 19*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* to 19*l.* 15*s.* being the spot price, while 20*l.* 5*s.* is quoted for January-April, 20*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* for May-August; Hull spot, 19*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* to 19*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* *Rape* oil is slightly cheaper, and closes with a tendency to further weakness. Crude on the spot 25*l.* to 25½*l.* 5*s.*; January-April, 24½*l.* 15*s.* to 25½*l.* Refined, 26½*l.* 10*s.*; *Palm* oil is somewhat steadier, at 22½*l.* 10*s.* for fine Lagos. *Petroleum* has made an advance since our last report. American closes at 6¼*d.* to 6½*d.* on the spot, being steady; month, 6½*d.*; January-April, 6*d.* *Russian* oil on the spot, 6*d.* *Turpentine* has advanced, and closes very firm. American spirits, 28*l.* on the spot, and 28½*l.* 15*s.* January-April.

OPIMUM.—There is very little doing here. The quotations are still 14*s.* 6*d.* to 15*s.* for *Persian*, and up to 15*s.* for *Druggists*. Smyrna letters state that the market there is fairly active. All new, and the better descriptions of old, opium remain very firm, but ordinary old grades are still declining. The arrivals up to November 25 were 664 cases, against 3,602 at the corresponding date of 1886. Telegrams received here yesterday mention that an American firm of morphia-makers are now buying in Smyrna, and that values are advancing there.

ORRIS ROOT.—Speculative operators in Italy, encouraged by the smallness of the crop, have cornered the Florentine

root and brought about an advance of about 70 per cent. The latest quotations are: *Florentine* small dark to fine selected root, 45s. to 50s. *Veronese*, 19s. to 22s. 6d.

PIMENTO.—This article has to some extent been affected by the general speculation, and a considerable quantity sold since our last report at 2½d. to 2¾d. per lb. At the auctions a further improvement was established, and 2,200 bags sold at 2½d. for ordinary grey, 2½d. to 2¾d. for middling to fairly good, and 2¾d. to 3d. for fine. The advance has been well maintained since the auctions, and the demand continues good.

POTASH COMPOUNDS.—*Dichromate* is well maintained at 4½d. per lb. In *Chlorate* business has been exceedingly lively; most transactions extend over delivery throughout the next year at 6½d. per lb. In yellow *Prussiate* there is not much doing; the nearest price remains at 7¼d. per lb.

QUICKSILVER.—Since our last report the market has fluctuated between 9d. 17c. 6d. and 10d. 5s. To-day there are sellers at 10d. 2s. 6d., although on 'Change 10d. 5s. was still quoted. The importers have not yet fixed a price, and on the whole there seems to be less confidence in the article.

QUININE has continued the centre of interest in the drug market this week. Large parcels have changed hands, and quotations ran up to 2s. 2d. for *German* quinine (bulk) in second hand, but they close a little easier, say at 2s. 1d. per oz. The *German* manufacturers appear to be almost out of the market just now; at least their agents are not offering. *Pelletier's* price was raised after the bark sales to 2s. 6d. for vials, and 2s. 4d. for bulk; and *Whiffen's* quinine in bulk sold in fair quantities at 2s. 1d. per oz. The statement that the "bull" movement is receiving no support from Messrs. Howards & Sons appears borne out by the action of those makers. They did not advance their price until to-day, when they quoted 2s. 6d. for vials and 2s. 4d. for bottles. Previous to that they would only sell very small quantities, and refused to supply speculative operators. On Wednesday they sold a small quantity at 2s. 1d. per oz., and it is rumoured that this sale was intended to depress the Amsterdam cinchona auctions held to-day. The market closes somewhat unsettled.

RAPESEED quiet, but firm, at from 43s. to 48s. per quarter for *English* seed. *Foreign* is momentarily wanting.

SAFFRON remains very firm, at 50s. for fine *Valencia*. The tendency is towards higher rates, but little will probably be done until after the New Year.

SCAMMONY.—At Smyrna the market is firm, and the demand pretty brisk. Prices range from 65f. for firsts to 58f. for seconds. Stock about 560 lbs.

SENA.—370 packages senna were imported in the *Victoria* this week from Bombay.

SHELLAC.—Last week closed with a very excited market, the sales on Friday and Saturday amounting to perhaps another 15,000 chests. The closing quotations were as follows:—*Second orange*, TN spot, 63s.; February-April shipment at 60s. to 64s. c.i.f.; January-March delivery, 65s.; *Garnet AC* and *OCC* spot, 52s. 6d. to 54s.; for arrival, 50s. to 51s. c.i.f. Until before the auctions these prices were well maintained, the transactions including several thousand chests, 77s. 6d. being paid for *First orange* ASSL on the spot. The auctions were by far the most extensive which have been held for a long time, and the sale-room was crowded to a quite unaccustomed degree. The catalogues comprised 3,330 cases, made up of 510 cases *First orange*, 1,905 *Second orange*, 322 *Garnet*, and 593 *Button*. Nearly 900 cases of this quantity were offered without reserve. Bidding was fairly animated, and nearly 2,700 cases found buyers, but the prices prevailing before the auctions were not quite maintained (although an advance has been pretty generally anticipated). *Second orange* and *Garnet lac* sold on an average 2s. below top prices, and *Button's* from 3s. to 4s. cheaper. On Wednesday the market became depressed, and a decline of 9s. per cwt. from the highest point was accepted for *Second orange*, forward delivery, in consequence of a manoeuvre by speculators. Since then the loss has been nearly recovered, 60s. having been paid for TN *Second orange* for arrival.

SODA COMPOUNDS remain in a rather languid condition. *Ash* sells slowly at 1½d. to 1¾d. per degree per cwt. and at

1d. on the Tyne. *Bicarb note* is quiet at 6l. per ton landed. *Caustic* unaltered at 7l. for cream and 7l. 10s. for white 60 per cent. *Crystals* have further declined; 46s. per cwt. is now the quotation in London, and 41s. per cwt. on the Tyne. *Nitrate* alone is strong, and a brisk trade is reported at 8l. 15s.

SULPHUR quiet and without alteration in price. *Flowers* are worth from 8s. 6d. to 9s. 6d. per cwt., *Roll* 6s. 6d. to 7s.

TONQUIN BEANS.—We note the arrival at Liverpool of 67 cases, direct import from Pará, per *Lanfranc*.

TURMERIC.—Prices further advanced during the beginning of the week, business being done at 12s. 6d. for *Bengal* spot, and 11s. 6d. for forward delivery c.i.f. terms, 11s. for good hard *Maaras* finger, and 8s. for split *Cochin* bulbs. At the weekly auctions a much quieter tone prevailed, and as it was clear that, if pressed for sale, the 1,637 bags catalogued would have to be disposed of at a considerable reduction, the whole was bought in.

AMERICAN CABLEGRAM.

NEW YORK, December 8.

THE action of E. Merck v. Lehn & Fink [particulars of which are given in another part of this issue] came on again for hearing at the Tombs Police Court in New York on November 30. It was expected that the case would terminate on that day, but ultimately the hearing was further adjourned.

ERGOT OF RYE.—After the recent inordinate rise, the not unforeseen reaction has fully set in. Prices are giving way rapidly, and it is generally anticipated that they will shortly have returned to the level before the rise.

OIL OF PEPPERMINT.—At present the transactions are rather restricted, and appearances point to a further fall in the prices.

OPIUM.—An advancing tendency, but so far without actual influence on the price, is observable.

QUININE.—Prices have advanced considerably during the last few days, owing to speculative purchases. Domestic brands are quoted here at 56s., equal to 2s. 4½d. per oz. London terms. Although this advance has greatly reduced the demand, the market keeps very strong.

THE AMSTERDAM CINCHONA AUCTIONS.

(Telegram from our Correspondent.)

THE last public auctions of cinchona bark of the present year took place to-day, the quantity brought forward being very heavy—much larger, in fact, than that offered at the London auctions this week; and, considering the fact that the average alkaloidal richness of Java bark is much higher than that of the Ceylon bark auctioned at London, it will be seen that the Amsterdam auctions must exercise an important influence on the position of the market. The catalogues included 2,894 packages, the bulk being *Ledgeriana* bark in broken quills, chips, shavings, and root. There was also a fair assortment of *Succirubra* bark in druggists' quills. Nearly the whole of the supply was disposed of, only about 120 packages being bought in; but the result was disappointing to the "bull" party. Prices showed a lower tendency, the unit averaging from 13c. to 15c. per half kilo., equal to about 2½d. to 2¾d. per lb. Druggists' bark, in ordinary weak to fine stout silvery quill, sold at 25c. to 140c. per half kilo. (4½d. to 2s. 1½d. per lb.); ditto, in broken quills and chips, at 17c. to 53c. (3d. to 10½d. per lb.); quills, broken quills, chips, and shavings, at 13c. to 114c. (2½d. to 1s. 8¾d. per lb.); and manufacturers' bark and root at 29c. to 105c. (5½d. to 1s. 7d. per lb.). The principal buyers were the German manufacturers, Zimmer & Co., of Frankfurt-on-Maine, Böhringer & Sons, of Mannheim, and the Auerbach Quinine-works.

COCOA BUTTER.—At the sale on Tuesday the whole parcel of about 45 tons was disposed of at the following rates:—Quality A, at 75½c. to 78½c. (average price 76¾c.); B, 74½c. to 75½c. (average price 75½c.); C, 74½c. per ½ kg. Afterwards, on 'Change some parcels A were re-sold at 80c. The market remains firm.

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

IMPORTS		Nov., 1885	Nov., 1886	Nov., 1887
Drugs, unenumerated ..	value £	71,311	52,802	59,928
Chemical manufactures and products, unenumerated ..	"	112,850	93,663	109,546
Chemicals & dyestuffs, unenumerated ..	"	148,820	190,100	135,393
Oils, not enumerated ..	"	106,310	106,409	114,653
Alkali .. ..	.. cwt.	4,643	6,763	4,395
" .. ..	.. value £	3,827	5,614	4,091
Brimstone .. ..	.. cwt.	57,219	91,900	41,437
" .. ..	.. value £	14,110	21,117	11,028
Nitrate of soda .. ..	.. cwt.	248,265	78,010	116,232
" .. ..	.. value £	134,721	34,995	52,531
" of potash .. ..	.. cwt.	22,566	20,300	18,427
" .. ..	.. value £	19,903	17,655	15,669
Quicksilver .. ..	.. lbs.	35,554	75,300	23,000
" .. ..	.. value £	3,534	6,885	3,630
Cinchona bark .. ..	.. cwt.	12,300	10,220	8,662
" .. ..	.. value £	91,340	59,819	35,558
Gum Arabic .. ..	.. cwt.	9,139	7,128	6,271
" .. ..	.. value £	33,027	31,373	27,119
Lac, seed, shell, stick, and dye ..	.. cwt.	7,235	3,781	2,700
" .. ..	.. value £	22,990	10,217	7,302
Cinnamon .. ..	.. lbs.	181,812	381,350	174,132
" .. ..	.. value £	6,920	13,207	7,595
Ginger .. ..	.. cwt.	279	2,988	589
" .. ..	.. value £	319	2,381	495
Pepper .. ..	.. lbs.	1,768,767	1,799,649	2,645,211
" .. ..	.. value £	57,727	63,878	97,592
Bark (for tanners' or dyers' use) ..	.. cwt.	23,259	25,635	11,076
" .. ..	.. value £	7,752	9,804	2,625
Aniline dyes .. ..	.. "	18,038	25,307	23,791
Alizarine and other coal-tar dyes .. ..	.. "	29,154	19,836	29,941
Cochineal .. ..	.. cwt.	1,808	1,975	883
" .. ..	.. value £	10,980	12,633	5,473
Cutch and gambier .. ..	.. tons	1,360	2,601	2,217
" .. ..	.. value £	31,412	57,745	55,314
Indigo .. ..	.. cwt.	3,759	2,123	883
" .. ..	.. value £	69,447	45,438	20,204
Madder, madder root, &c. ..	.. cwt.	2,471	853	1,372
" .. ..	.. value £	3,612	1,072	1,431
Cocoa-nut oil .. ..	.. cwt.	8,803	23,579	697
" .. ..	.. value £	12,513	31,611	905
Olive oil .. ..	.. tons	1,461	1,506	1,091
" .. ..	.. value £	59,950	48,468	39,712
Palm oil .. ..	.. cwt.	84,212	80,137	98,033
" .. ..	.. value £	93,452	84,810	95,208
Petroleum oil .. ..	.. gals.	7,442,816	8,278,727	9,410,373
" .. ..	.. value £	229,232	239,447	241,694
Oil seed .. ..	.. tons	1,562	1,395	2,160
" .. ..	.. value £	43,261	36,162	53,272
Turpentine .. ..	.. cwt.	30,444	41,941	43,434
" .. ..	.. value £	40,460	51,551	62,538
EXPORTS				
British and Irish produce—				
Drugs and medicinal preparations, unenumerated ..	value £	78,343	64,991	79,917
Other chemicals and medicinal preparations	"	237,355	272,291	253,907
Painters' colours and materials ..	"	9,163	106,049	114,779
Alkali .. ..	.. cwt.	579,160	552,584	600,692
" .. ..	.. value £	169,839	150,447	164,819
Bleaching materials .. ..	.. cwt.	127,071	145,143	172,670
" .. ..	.. value £	41,889	49,950	65,157
Seed oil .. ..	.. tons	5,643	6,198	7,704
" .. ..	.. value £	130,174	130,889	158,639
Soap .. ..	.. cwt.	30,291	37,787	36,419
" .. ..	.. value £	35,485	39,720	37,174
Foreign and Colonial merchandise—				
Chemicals, unenumerated ..	"	17,883	10,528	17,859
Cinchona bark .. ..	.. cwt.	10,102	10,060	8,344
" .. ..	.. value £	62,281	38,310	19,092
Cochineal .. ..	.. cwt.	1,217	1,341	955
" .. ..	.. value £	8,253	9,462	5,522
Cutch and gambier .. ..	.. tons	1,212	839	736
" .. ..	.. value £	23,330	20,993	21,063
Gum Arabic .. ..	.. cwt.	4,325	4,115	5,101
" .. ..	.. value £	18,497	20,150	21,176
Indigo .. ..	.. cwt.	3,381	3,052	1,916
" .. ..	.. value £	71,472	61,544	40,654
Lac seed, shell, stick and dye ..	.. cwt.	5,588	4,322	4,999
" .. ..	.. value £	17,958	12,754	12,254
Cocoa-nut oil .. ..	.. cwt.	3,947	12,178	6,517
" .. ..	.. value £	5,835	18,130	8,253
Olive oil .. ..	.. tons	168	144	216
" .. ..	.. value £	9,957	5,850	8,876
Palm oil .. ..	.. cwt.	28,510	50,676	50,099
" .. ..	.. value £	33,383	49,275	53,116
Petroleum oil .. ..	.. gals.	45,023	51,071	50,091
" .. ..	.. value £	1,185	2,176	2,223
Quicksilver .. ..	.. lbs.	145,698	248,284	458,832
" .. ..	.. value £	11,406	23,256	44,182
Nitrate of potash .. ..	.. cwt.	5,719	329	343
" .. ..	.. value £	4,466	343	364
Cinnamon .. ..	.. lbs.	143,032	107,284	103,100
" .. ..	.. value £	5,232	4,137	3,900
Pepper .. ..	.. lbs.	2,426,016	1,616,960	1,353,100
" .. ..	.. value £	76,349	56,973	45,317

LONDON DRUG STATISTICS

THE following figures refer to the stocks of the principal drugs in the Port of London on November 30, 1887, and to the imports and deliveries from January 1 to November 30, as compared with the same period of the preceding year:—

Article	Stocks		Imported		Delivered	
	1887	1886	1887	1886	1887	1886
Aloes	5,537	4,435	4,897	4,513	4,596	4,457
" kegs	7	12	57	—	62	12
" gourds	3,735	50	667	610	863	720
Anise, Star	181	245	217	98	275	227
Arrowroot	13,990	12,988	15,616	14,854	13,498	22,229
" bxs & tins	8,504	4,776	9,718	5,651	5,739	3,959
Balsams	596	634	611	940	716	808
Bark, Medicinal ..						
sks & cs	11,143	8,503	27,489	27,556	24,208	23,750
sks, &c.	47,981	59,054	37,750	37,401	44,235	36,087
Borax	992	751	2,473	1,596	1,165	1,553
Calumba	2,991	1,512	3,715	2,295	2,251	1,682
Camphor	2,603	5,420	4,468	7,145	8,036	8,848
Cardamoms	657	603	3,280	2,546	3,323	2,764
Coccol. Ind. bgs, &c.	300	493	299	579	439	423
Cremon of Tartar ..	11	11	44	86	44	123
Cubebs	83	135	411	583	420	461
Dragon's Blood ..	117	151	126	161	141	143
Galls, China, &c. cs	1,306	3,270	3,623	6,575	5,045	6,563
Trky & Prsn sks	3,911	4,992	6,820	10,214	6,630	8,477
Gum—						
Ammoniac pkgs	250	236	128	308	163	222
Animi & Copal ..						
pkgs	3,009	6,375	6,214	8,537	8,144	8,731
Arabic	10,124	14,789	1,628	31,415	22,628	25,272
Asafetida	457	953	72	917	392	774
Benjamin	1,675	1,668	2,064	2,579	2,026	2,497
Damar	3,128	6,344	4,193	8,144	5,872	6,573
Galbanum	—	9	1	—	1	6
Gamboge	97	120	217	419	323	438
Guaiaac	79	50	48	102	45	90
Kino	71	115	42	14	62	55
Kowrie	412	985	1,569	1,558	2,055	2,676
Mastic	103	142	10	73	31	50
Myrrh	529	445	808	445	505	385
Olibanum	3,094	3,971	5,991	4,448	6,355	5,368
Saudarac	814	1,182	1,070	1,485	1,502	1,720
Tragacanth	1,187	798	2,619	1,911	2,051	1,965
Indianrubber, E.I. ..						
tons	216	119	693	530	544	587
Madagascar	21	8	75	70	62	91
S. American	131	43	348	149	252	272
Mozambique	589	259	1,061	1,977	736	755
African, &c. ..	7	—	11	13	4	14
Total	994	423	2,183	1,559	1,598	1,650
Indigo, East Indian ..						
ehts	9,166	10,777	17,650	21,167	19,086	19,525
Spanish srus	1,676	1,944	3,927	4,184	4,180	3,839
Ipecacuanha						
ehts & bgs	136	88	551	551	521	595
Jalap	167	177	114	208	101	228
Lac Dye	7,199	7,816	105	494	717	623
Myrabolans	9,543	7,943	11,979	12,506	10,374	10,852
Sarsaparilla	482	833	662	2,763	839	2,236
Oils—						
Anise	121	148	125	287	170	423
Cassia	160	120	263	278	197	322
Castor	873	557	1,390	909	1,113	888
"	7,056	4,598	10,052	9,271	9,456	11,530
Cocoa-nut	1,956	1,173	4,832	4,269	4,181	5,100
Olive	636	1,016	3,984	9,227	4,187	9,516
Palm	213	217	184	332	150	366
Opium	2,150	2,129	1,733	1,143	1,731	1,333
Rhubarb	1,179	1,768	1,067	1,515	1,760	1,798
Safflower	410	413	396	461	558	310
Sarsaparilla	355	529	1,302	1,380	1,207	1,276
Senna	2,170	736	6,003	2,379	4,699	2,344
Shellac						
chis, &c.	41,555	36,344	31,996	27,349	27,287	27,243
Garnet	15,763	11,328	11,738	6,926	7,584	7,613
Buttton	11,500	11,923	8,641	12,495	8,579	10,210
Total	68,873	59,995	52,375	46,770	43,460	45,111
Sticklac	3,901	4,276	80	714	1,057	1,815
Cambier	574	1,385	10,812	12,611	11,884	12,261
Cutch	727	1,753	2,169	3,495	2,781	3,820
Turnerie	2,433	1,761	2,255	2,881	1,997	1,989
Vermilion, ehts, &c.	15	53	87	129	126	76
Wax, bees'						
sks	810	1,326	874	1,371	1,113	1,165
ehts & cs	1,682	1,464	2,942	2,884	2,574	2,701
cakes	18	89	26	157	—	72
Wax, Japan	720	1,556	852	2,105	1,479	2,179



Memoranda for Correspondents.

Always send your proper name and address; we do not publish them unless you wish.

Write on one side of the paper only; write early; and devote a separate sheet of paper to each query if you ask more than one, or if you are writing about other matters at the same time.

If you send us newspapers, please mark what you wish us to read.

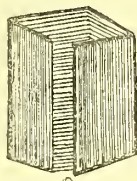
Ask us anything of pharmaceutical interest: we shall do our best to reply.

Before writing for formulae consult the last volume, if you have it.

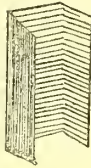
Letters, queries, &c., not noticed in this issue will, if possible, be attended to next week.

Cartons for Parcels Post.

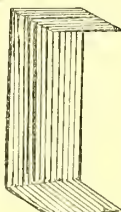
SIR,—Possibly some of your readers may be glad of a few directions for a safe, yet cheap, means of sending bottles by Parcels Post, &c. The material I have found safest and cheapest to use is that known as corrugated paper, an article possibly familiar to many of your readers. I make up from this material cartons to fit the various sizes of bottles in general use. These are made in three parts. First, cut a piece of the corrugated paper the exact size of your bottle when wrapped once round it, allowing for height of cork, creasing it across the corrugations so that it will fold with a sharp edge. Then cut another piece the same length, but only for three sides of the bottle, but large enough to go on the outside of the other piece. Then another piece the size



No. 1.



No. 2.



No. 3.

of the remaining side of bottle, and with pieces bent over for top and bottom. This piece (No. 3) must be cut the other way in the corrugations. Put the whole of the pieces together, and you will have a box the size of your bottle, consisting of a double thickness of corrugated paper. This may be wrapped round with brown or other paper, fastened up at the bottom, and the other end left open for slipping in the full bottle. The first trouble is in getting the correct size of the various pieces, but after having put the pieces together it is easy enough to alter them until the correct size is obtained, when it is advisable to cut cardboard patterns for each of the three parts, available for all future occasions.

Corrugated paper can be cut with an ordinary pair of scissors, the scoring (always across the corrugations) with a blunt knife, and the paper cuts to the best advantage when a number of the cartons are made at a time. Do not let the bottle fit too tight, as it is safer when it will almost slip in with its own weight, but not to give any perceptible movement when the package is shaken. I have used these home-made boxes for some time now, and they give me great satisfaction, and are both safe and cheap; and when the pattern is obtained they are very little trouble to make.

Faithfully yours,

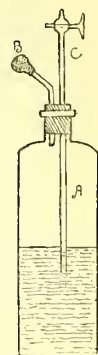
November 22.

SODA CARB. (201/28)

Wrinkles from the Antipodes.

SIR,—As a subscriber of your valuable journal, I beg to enclose a few trade wrinkles. This is a dropper for hydro-

cyanic acid. A glance at the illustration will make it clear enough. A represents the acid-bottle with a cork and two holes bored to admit the two tubes B and C. C tube has a turncock made of glass, as in a eudiometer, which tube reaches nearly to the bottom. The tube B is only a short length, with a teat without a hole, as in drop tube. This apparatus I find is extremely sensitive. I have searched most works for a dropper to please me, such as Remington's, Parrish's, &c. I intend having one made so that the two tubes shall pass into the stopper, or stopper and tube made in one piece, the stopper ground and fitted in the neck as in an ordinary stoppered bottle. Then the apparatus would be simply perfect.



To keep Prussic Acid in Hot Climates.

Scheele's prussic acid	..	..	..	1 part
Glycerin	..	..	..	1 part
Distilled water	..	..	..	1 part

Mix.

I think it is a great pity we have not a work adapted to our B.P. like Remington's "Pharmacy" is to the U.S.P. Chemists out here, or anywhere abroad, are thrown a good deal on their own resources, and have no really good work on modern pharmacy to fall back upon. It does not speak well of English pharmacy—and more's the pity. One has to go abroad to learn this and a few other facts concerning our business, and it brings to my mind the words of Burns—

Oh! wad some power the giffle gie us,
To see ourselves as others see us.

I have read some of the formulæ in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST intended for the new B.P.C. formulary. They are very modest indeed. I hope it will not be used as an advertisement for some of the pet hobbies some of our brother-chips are so fond of trotting out.

You have given prizes for a very large number of things connected with the profession. I should like to see a prize for a plan or sketch of a pharmacy, showing a ground plan and a plan of outside as well. Very few pharmacies I have seen appear to have sufficient light. Surely pharmacists are not afraid of that valuable commodity. The dispensing counter is usually placed so that the least amount of light reaches it, whereas it should be quite the other way. A great deal is spent in polishing, &c., where if there were less display and more usefulness I am sure work would be made pleasanter, and one would be able to see and read prescriptions. Regarding the arrangement of a poison cupboard, and its position in the pharmacy, I would suggest a cupboard placed at one side of the dispensing counter, facing the dispenser, with three or more rows of shelves, and the most potent poisons on the top shelf, the top shelf to be partitioned off in two portions—in fact all the shelves—for powders on one side and fluids on the other. Also to have a row of bottles, say blue colour with a white enamelled label, letters to be a red colour on white ground, and we should see fewer fatal errors in our pharmacies. Also, the arrangement and kind of bottles in shops—tinctures arranged alphabetically, as also syrups, &c. I think if there were a possibility of an inspector of pharmacies being appointed in Great Britain and out here, as in France, he would, I am sure, a tale unfold that would make every hair stand on end. Even the hairs of some of our leading pharmacists would turn grey in a single night. Some of the leading dispensing establishments in Sydney and Melbourne are not by any means above suspicion. When some of our globe trotting brother-chips are abroad they should "do" the pharmacies in India. Our brethren there are far-and-away ahead of the brethren at home and out here, where dispensing is a pleasure even at 98° in the shade.

Yours truly,

A QUEENSLAND CHEMIST. (209/6.)

Pure Drugs do not require a Patent-medicine Stamp.

SIR,—On October 3 I wrote to Somerset House inquiring the reason "Shirley's Neuralgic Crystal; an immediate cure for neuralgia and nervous headache" was allowed to be sold

without having a medicine-stamp attached; October 25 brought me the following reply:—

SIR,—In reply to your further letter, dated the 21st instant, I am directed by the Board of Inland Revenue to acquaint you that an analysis of the medicine to which your letter of the 3rd instant referred has shown that it is to be regarded as a pure drug, and therefore exempt from medicine-stamp duty.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

T. H. ELLIOTT.

However, being anxious of more enlightenment on the subject, I made further inquiries to this effect:—

GENTLEMEN,—I intend putting up pure reduced iron (ferrum redact. B.P.) in the form of powder, as a tonic, &c. Would the fanciful name or claim of proprietorship on the enclosed form of label render it liable to stamp duty, it being pure and unadulterated.

Respectfully yours,

D. H. DAVIS.

The wording on the label enclosed ran thus:—"Davis's Universal Nerve and Brain Tonic. An iron preparation which can be confidently recommended as an effectual blood restorer, and can always be given when the stomach will not bear the stronger preparations of iron. Acts as a charm in all nervous complaints, builds up the system, and gives tone and energy to the digestive organs. The bottle to be kept well corked. Price, 1s. 1½d. and 3s. 6d. per bottle.—D. H. DAVIS, 116 Denmark Hill."

On November 2 I was requested to furnish a sample of the said preparation for the purpose of analysis, which, of course, was promptly complied with, and this is the Board's decision:—

"SIR,—In reply to your letter dated the 2nd instant I am directed by the Board of Inland Revenue to acquaint you that the sample of 'Davis's Universal Nerve and Brain Tonic' sent up by you is found, on analysis, to be as stated by you—pure reduced iron. The exemption from medicine-stamp duty in favour of all medicinal drugs whatsoever which shall be uttered or vended entire without any mixture or composition with any other drug or ingredient whatsoever (*vide* 52 Geo. III., cap. 150) would be applicable to a powder of this character.

"I enclose for your information and guidance extracts from the Acts of Parliament imposing and regulating the medicine-stamp duty.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,

"Mr. D. Hughes Davis.

W. H. COUSINS."

[The exemption of pure drugs from liability to medicine-stamp duty has been repeatedly explained in this journal, but the foregoing case will make the condition more clear than ever.]

Kronen Essentz.

SIR,—On page 690 "Heder" asks for information regarding this essence, which I am pleased to give, as I prepare immense quantities for exportation to all parts of the world. The formula is as follows:—

Rad. angelicæ	1,500	grms.
" zedoariæ	1,500	"
" tormentillæ	1,000	"
" diptamine	1,000	"
Herb. cardui. benedict.	3,000	"
Succus liquiritiæ	6,000	"
Camphor	500-1,000	"
Aloes	6,000	"
Theriæ. Venet.	1,500	"
Rad. gentianæ	1,000	"
Agaricæ alba	750	"
Myrrh	2,000	"
Spt. rectificat. 95° ..	200	litros.

Digest for at least a fortnight. As regards the use of it, this essence is a universal remedy for everything. The essence is sent out with English descriptive matter, especially to India *via* Calcutta and Bombay, and I do not think it would be difficult to get a circular in the English language.

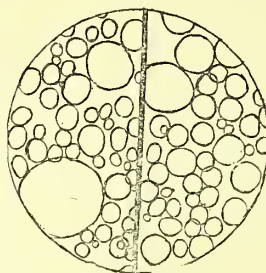
Yours truly,

Brünn, November 29.

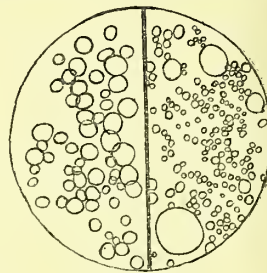
DR. ST. MIERZINSKI.

Cod-liver Oil Emulsions.

SIR,—After reading Mr. Gerrard's paper on emulsions, published in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST for November 19, I had the curiosity to examine five emulsions of cod-liver oil which happened to be at hand, and send you drawings of



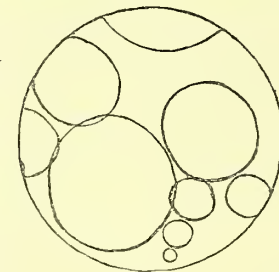
No. 1.



No. 2.

No. 3.

No. 4.



No. 5.

them as seen through a microscope. No. 1 is an emulsion prepared with compound tragacanth powder in a mortar. No. 2 (emulsifying agent not known) is described as being "perfect" and "permanent," as well as "palatable." Nos. 1 and 2 are magnified about 120 diameters. No. 3 is a "solution" of cod-liver oil in malt extract. No. 4 is prepared with powdered gum acacia, by placing 4 of oil in a dry mortar, adding 1 of powdered gum, mixing thoroughly, and then adding (all at once) 2 of water, forming an emulsion, and then adding gradually water to make 8. Nos. 3 and 4 are magnified about 225 diameters. No. 5 is prepared according to the form in the Unofficial Formulary, and has little in its appearance to recommend it. It is on the same scale as Nos. 1 and 2. Only a small proportion of the globules in the emulsion prepared with acacia are larger than those to be seen in fresh milk. My examination satisfies me that where the oil is required to be fairly divided, and not simply suspended, acacia gum must be used in preference to tragacanth.

MOYHITT. (203/68.)

Conversion of Morphine into Apomorphine.

SIR,—I see the question whether morphine can be converted into apomorphine when long kept in solution has been correctly answered by Mr. Dott and another correspondent; but I may mention that I have frequently had to give hypodermic injections of morphia, and that nausea and sickness following was not by any means uncommon, even when recently-made solutions were employed. "Ringer," 7th ed. p. 521, mentions as "not unfrequent" results of morphia injections, "excitement, giddiness, even great nausea, and repeated vomiting, followed by considerable depression." Many other authors agree as to these facts.

VIRIDIS. (211/34.)

Art and Mystery.

SIR,—In *Tit Bits* of November 19 occurs a paragraph entitled "The Quack and His Patients," describing a scene which took place not long ago in the neighbourhood of the Lambeth Road; and as I believe the chief actor in the story frequently favours me with his custom, I am able to supplement the story by giving his version of the affair, jotted down on the spot.

About a month ago this gentleman came into my shop to order two pennyworth of corrosive sublimate. I, of course, declined to supply the poison, and proceeded to ask for what purpose it was required, as I had misgivings that it might ultimately find its way into the stomachs of some of his street patients. The professor of the healing art then explained his method of demonstrating the "terribly bad and clogged" condition of Londoners' lungs, much as follows:—A

boy, preferably strong and healthy, is picked from out the crowd of listeners and directed to breathe through a glass tube into a vessel containing lime-water. When the resulting white liquid has been sufficiently expatiated upon, the boy frightened, and the crowd agape with friendly interest, then, said he, "I put some acid into it, and away it all goes." In the next place he informs his hearers they shall see with their own eyes the phlegm from the boy's lungs, and dropping a small piece of corrosive sublimate into the liquid, triumphantly points to the yellow wash in process of formation as a proof of his statement. The boy who was selected as a patient is by this time quite terror-stricken, and the crowd, deeply impressed by the magician's knowledge and power, press round his stall and compete for the purchase of his invaluable lung-healing candy displayed thereon in tempting profusion.

The closing sentence of our conversation would serve as an admirable text for the next sermon on commercial or professional morality.

"I'm afraid, my friend," said I, "to speak plainly, you're a humbug." The reply was prompt and to the point: "Well, if I wasn't I couldn't get a living; I'm d—d if I could!"

Denmark Hill, Nov. 28.

T. H. POWELL.

Drug Stores and Pharmacies.

SIR,—Referring to the article in last issue, entitled "A Week in a Drug Store," I believe few country assistants are aware when engaged what class of trade is done at such places. In most cases when seeking for assistants the advertisements are so worded as to convey an idea that it is a first-class house, the words "drug stores" being carefully kept out, the private name and the word "chemist" only appearing. I say that such advertisements have done more harm to the trade than can be conceived. The assistant, when engaged, is probably just out of his apprenticeship, comes up to London, and, being placed behind the counter of one of these places, soon finds that the firm he serves are not only chemists but also photographic stores, patent-medicine dealers (at cost prices), general oilmen, artists' colourmen, and tea dealers. But being only able to obtain reference as apprentice from his previous place, and having spent a good deal of money in coming to London, he is almost compelled to spend a reasonable time at the drug stores for the sake of his reference as assistant. When leaving the drug warehouse in search of a better situation he finds that this reference will not procure him a better place than before, and is consequently again enticed to accept a similar post at another drug store. His chances are now closed from the old-fashioned chemists, and if he manages to get through his Minor examination his whole idea is to be the proprietor of a drug store himself. I speak from personal knowledge, and am convinced that a trade register is badly wanted, bearing the names of chemists, with a space for assistants to state the length of time spent at each situation, and fully stating the nature of the business.

Yours, &c.,

D. H. D. (204/30.)

Glasgow Medical Preliminary.

SIR,—In the answer to the query of "Pil. Calcii Sulph." in a recent issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, *re* the Medical Preliminary of Glasgow University, history and geography are mentioned as being required for that examination. Having passed that examination recently I may be allowed to state that these subjects do not now form part of the examination. In addition to those subjects you mention, logic is also necessary for registration, apart from the optional subjects.

ATROPIA. (205/35.)

The Irish Pharmacy Act.

SIR,—An opportunity has happily arisen to harmonise the somewhat strained relations hitherto existing between the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland and the chemists and druggists of that country. I hope the present attempt at accommodation will not prove abortive, and with a view to facilitate an arrangement I ask space for a few remarks, as some recent letters, especially one signed "Another

Dublin Chemist," are not calculated by their caustic tone to aid in the settlement of the difficulty.

As a member of the deputation that recently waited upon the Pharmaceutical Council from the North of Ireland Chemists and Druggists' Association, I may be able to throw a little extra light on the present position. After the conference between the Council and the deputation, a copy of proposed amendments to the Act was handed to the latter, with a request that the Association would consider these and report their views thereon to the Council. Special meetings were consequently held of the Chemists and Druggists' Association, and the proposals were considered. Ultimately it was unanimously agreed to recommend some modifications with the view of protecting the vested interests of the present chemists and druggists. Without trenching upon the province of the reporters, or forestalling the necessary routine in this case, I may, for the present purpose, summarise briefly these recommendations as follows:—

(a) Continuation of the two grades, "pharmaceutical chemists" and "chemists and druggists," with corresponding examinations for each grade.

(b) Meantime all chemists and druggists who were in trade on their own account at or prior to the passing of the Act of 1875 to be registered without examination on payment of a fee of one guinea.

(c) All others, viz., apprentices, assistants, and those who began business since 1875, to pass a modified examination ere being placed on the register.

(d) Direct representation on the Council in lieu of any payment beyond the examination fee.

(e) Five years' apprenticeship with chemists and druggists to render candidates eligible for examination and registration in either or both grades.

(f) Authority for the business of a deceased chemist and druggist to be continued if desired under simple regulations for at least a reasonable time.

(g) Chemists and druggists to be exempt from jury service.

The North of Ireland Association will be satisfied with any Bill drafted on these lines, and will regard their interests as sufficiently protected thereby. In some respects these recommendations claim less, and in some more, than what the Council seemed disposed to concede, but, on the whole, it is thought that the new Bill will be mutually beneficial. The arrangement for a modified examination for some presently in the trade, it is thought, cannot be a difficulty of moment with any, and will confer advantages which will compensate for the slight inconvenience of examination. This will at once place all the present chemists and druggists on an equality, and lead to union for the protection of their interests.

It is hoped that other chemists and druggists throughout the country, either individually or corporately, will co-operate with at least their moral support to get the Bill through during the ensuing session of Parliament.

If a mutual spirit of compromise and conciliation prevails the matter may now be arranged. With that object in view may I ask others to follow the good examples and moderate counsels of the North, as I am justified in hoping that the recommendation of the Association will be met in a conciliatory spirit by the Pharmaceutical Council at their next meeting.

Yours truly,

Bridge Street, Belfast,
December 4.

SAMUEL CLOTWORTHY.

Stedman's Powders.

SIR,—The *Saturday Review*, from which you quote is your November 16 issue, has made a bungling mistake between Stedman's and Stedman's powders. "Stedman's" are not said on the authority of Dr. Hassall to be free from narcotics. That certificate applies to "Stedman's" powders.

125 New North Road,
Hoxton, London.

Yours obediently,

JAMES H. STEDMAN.

Sweet Coated Pills.

SIR,—Lest the Editorial in last week's issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST on what your term "The Saccharin-coated Pills Patent" should lead any of your friends into trouble, I trust you will give equal prominence to a

notice that the matter has been placed in professional hands. I have before me a recently obtained "opinion" of a well-known patent specialist and author, which traverses that referred to in Messrs. Richardson's circular. I shall not prejudice my position by here discussing the points raised in your article, but merely ask that it be remembered there are at least two sides in a controversy. I would only further add that there is no such thing as "The Saccharin-coated Pills Patent."

I am, yours sincerely,

December 6.

W. L. HOWIE.

[We take it that Mr. Howie writes on behalf of Messrs. Barron, Harveys & Co., who, as we understand, are working his patent. It is desirable that he or they should be a little more explicit. At present they claim the exclusive right to employ saccharin in the coating of pills, and they darkly hint at our friends getting into trouble if they should venture to infringe that patent. We do not advise anyone to infringe anybody's property, but, as Mr. Howie himself says, and as we said last week, there are clearly two sides to this controversy. Messrs. Richardson & Co. have offered Messrs. Barron, Harveys & Co. the opportunity of establishing the validity of their patent; surely they will accept the challenge. We should have expected them to declare their intentions promptly.]

DISPENSING NOTES.

[The opinion of practical readers is invited on subjects discussed under this heading.]

Re Muddy Mixture.

SIR,—My thanks are due to "Cinnamon" and "Nepenthe" for remarks on above; but permit me to say that I do not think the correct explanation has yet been given.

The suggestion of boiling I treat as a joke; the purity of ingredients I am confident of. The pulv. potass. bicarb. and chloroform were taken from original and sealed bottles of Howard, and Duncan, Flockhart & Co. respectively, and neither of them was long kept. Potass. iodid. and magnes. sulph. are of known good quality, and the vin. colchici we prepare in strict conformity with the B.P.

The last article's tendency to deposit induces me to think either that its constituents may form compounds with the potash or magnesia, or its instability may exercise a catalytic effect on the other ingredients.

At any rate I have made up the prescription many times, and it has always deposited in the same way immediately, no matter how made up, nor whether vin. colchici perfectly clear or muddy.

I may also mention that the prescription had been made up previously by a chemist of good standing, and that he has affixed a "shake the bottle" to his label.

I would like if the true solution could be arrived at.

Yours truly,

VIRIDIS. (209/35.)

Trochisci Glonoini.

209/72. *A Country Chemist*.—Glonoine is a harmless name for nitro-glycerine, used in prescriptions to prevent patients thinking they are to be blown up. The nitro-glycerine tablets of the Pharmacopœia are intended.

Ext. "Pinch." Liq.

208/27. *Iridin* (Turin) sends us the following prescription, which, he informs us, was dated and given in Monaco:—

Carbon. amm.	..	..	..	..	gr. xxxii.
Aeq. amm. ac.	..	..	..	..	ʒij.
Ext. pinch. liq.	..	..	..	..	ʒj.
Tr. pinch. co.	..	..	..	..	ʒij.
Syrup. aurantii	..	..	..	..	ʒij.
Aequ	..	..	..	..	ʒviij.

In no single pharmacy or work on pharmacy has he been able to get an explanation of the word "pinch." Of course this is a misreading for "cinch," the contraction for cinchona.

Diluted Lime Liniment.

SIR,—I should like to know if a presentable mixture could be made of the following:—

Lin. calcis.	..	..	..	..	ʒvj.
Aquæ rosæ	..	..	..	..	ʒiv.
Acid. hydrocyan. dil.	..	..	..	..	ʒij.

Ft. lotio.

S. W. H. (57/21.)

Dispensing Labels.

SIR,—Some few days ago a bottle was brought to the shop to be dispensed with the prescription attached to it. The directions on the bottle were, "A tablespoonful three times a day," but above this was a bold "Poison" label on red ground.

The mixture contained ʒj. of liq. arsenicalis for sixteen doses.

As it had been dispensed in a rather noted London house, I should be pleased to know if this "attractive addition" to the dispensing label can be recommended.

Yours truly,

MAG. SULPH. (210/43.)

[It is unnecessary to label as "Poison" medicines for internal use containing scheduled poisons, which are ordered by prescription and duly registered in the prescription-book; moreover, it is generally inexpedient to do so, and we should think that a prescriber would strongly object to the practice.]

206/12. *W. F. S.* has had a prescription containing "pepsin (Borup)" as an ingredient. Perhaps Burroughs's pepsin is meant.

LEGAL QUERIES.

23/210. *Junior*.—The Edinburgh case shows than an unqualified assistant who manages the sale for a qualified person of a scheduled poison is liable to a penalty under the 15th section of the Pharmacy Act, but he can only be prosecuted by authority of the Pharmaceutical Council.

37/68. *An Old Subscriber*.—Your signature and trade-mark on the label evidently indicate that you claim a proprietary right. We are not sure that without these on the label the article would be allowed to be sold without a stamp, but it seems likely that it is these that govern the decision of the Board.

46/209. *Chemicus* (S. Devon) asks:—"Is a chemist legally allowed to prescribe, provided he does so in his place of business? Would he be acting illegally in suggesting to a customer for any drug the substitution of another—viz. if a customer asked for 2 oz. hiera pira and the chemist suggests compound liquorice powder? Local doctors and lawyers here say he would." [The subject of prescribing by chemists is treated on pages 153-154 of the DIARY. Briefly, the conclusion arrived at by the several trials fought out was that a chemist might not select medicine and sell it for any particular case of disease, but that he may discuss and advise with his customers respecting the properties of the medicines he sells. We should say that in the transaction you suggest the chemist would be fully within his right, and would not be "acting as an apothecary."]

60/206. *Gust*.—You can only get legal protection for the title of your cough lozenge if you can get it registered as a trade-mark. For full details of the procedure necessary see page 260 of the DIARY just published.

51/207. *Live and Let Live*.—We do not care to publish your letter, unless we are informed of all the circumstances and become convinced that the subject needs ventilation. So far you only make insinuations.

20/209. *J. T.*—The exemption as regards veterinary surgeons (32 & 33 Vict. c. 117, sec. 1) only permits them to dispense medicines for animals under their care: does not authorise them to carry on the business of chemists and druggists.

4/206. *Marc* puts the following:—A registered chemist and druggist has a shop in the town of A, which is managed by himself. He opens a branch in the town of B, two miles distant. He puts a man in charge who has only passed the Preliminary examination. The proprietor may pay a visit to the branch at B at least once a day. There are, therefore, two shops, but only one qualified druggist to manage both. Is this legal? [Yes, as far as the owner is concerned; but the unqualified person is personally infringing the Pharmacy Act when he sells any scheduled poison.]

27/117. *Anxious.*—It would probably be fairly safe to entitle a medicine "Lord Beaconsfield's Cough Cure"; but the heirs of the deceased nobleman would have ground for claiming an injunction forbidding you to take that liberty, if they thought fit to do so.

5/207. *A Prescribing Chemist.*—You do not give your name, you write on both sides of the paper, and you argue from erroneous premises. For all these reasons we do not insert your letter. The Shepperley case was not tried by the House of Lords, and neither that nor any other court ever ruled "that it is legal for chemists to prescribe in simple ailments." The courts, indeed, took the view which you express, that it is impossible to define a "simple ailment," but they did not deduce, as you do, from that starting-point that, therefore, a chemist ought to be allowed to prescribe for anything. See article on this subject in the new DIARY, page 153.

65/210. *Dum Spiro Spero*—Your cough pills are liable to stamp duty because you call them —'s, and also because you say they are "prepared only by" you. The chlorodyne is liable because you say it is "invaluable for coughs," &c. The white oils are liable because you recommend them for various human maladies. The rest of your labels are more or less doubtful, and you can only get an authoritative opinion about them by sending them (in duplicate) to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, Somerset House. Any of those preparations may be made liable by other advertisements, handbills, or show-cards. The title you give to your teething-powders would probably render them liable.

64/211. *Father Christmas.*—There are very few, if any, of the chemical experiments which we published last year the sale of which can infringe the Explosives Act. You have the particulars of the Act in the new DIARY, and can judge how far you ought to go.

MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES.

Books.

207/30. *J. T.*—The publishers of "Law's Farmer's Veterinary Adviser" are MacLachlan & Stewart, Edinburgh.

207/42. *T. A. Goodwin.*—Valentine's "Qualitative Analysis" (Churchill, 7s. 6d.) is what is generally used for the Science and Art advanced chemistry.

209/38. *Practical.*—Muter's "Practical Chemistry" is the nearest thing to your requirements that we know of.

211/71. *J. W.*—Cresswell's "Veterinary Pharmacopœia" (Baillière), and Tuson's "Veterinary Pharmacopœia" (Churchill), 7s. 6d.

211/34. *Viridis.*—For the detection of methylic alcohol in spt. æther. nit., there is no better test than Riche & Bards's one, see *C. & D.*, October 23, page 530.

208/43. *Cop. Papar.*—Minor Examination.—You will get full information as to the nature of the questions given

in this examination in our Educational Number (Sept. 17). In pharmacy you are expected to know the names only of the ingredients of compound preparations, but the actual proportions of the *active* ingredients you are expected to know, *e.g.*, in the case of syrupus *rheados* you must be able to state the quantity of red-poppy petals used.

208/38. *Alpha.*—You cannot render *Otto of Rose* more soluble in alcohol than it really is. Many people employ magnesia for the purpose, but that only removes some of the otto. You should decrease the amount of otto in your perfumes.

207/52. *Viator.*—(1) We do not know the exact composition of Spirone. There is a patent for it which you could get from the Patent Office. (2) *Brahee* is a proprietary medicine given in the form of powders. The makers are Clark & Pinkerton, Edinburgh. (3) *Hawthorn* in *Mennorrhagia*. *Viator* wishes information on this subject.

203/23. *Sussex.*—The principal fault of your writing-ink is that it contains sulphate of copper, and logwood helps to make a gall ink become brown sooner than it otherwise would. You should try the effect of strips of polished iron on a small quantity of the ink that you have made, so as to precipitate the copper. The ordinary impure sulphate of iron makes a better ink than the pure sulphate.

205/56. *Sulphur.*—We do not know the composition of the fire-extinguisher which you name. You will find formulæ on pages 128 and 150 of the current volume.

202/12. *A. S.*—Iodide of potassium induces dryness of the mucous membrane of the air-passages; but the remedy to use depends upon the cause.

209/58. *J. A. B.*—*Gripe Water.*—Oil of dill, m xxx. spirit of chloroform, 3ss.; bicarbonate of potash, gr. xl.; magnesia, 5ij.; water, 1 pint. Mix, shake occasionally for four hours, and filter.

208/20. *F. H. W.*—It is probably *Emplastrum Melilot* which you mean. The formula for it was:—Fresh melilot, 6 lbs.; suet, 3 lbs. Boil until crisp, strain with pressure, and add yellow resin, 8 lbs.; beeswax, 4 lbs. Make a plaster. (2) *Alvelos* (*Euphorbia heterodoxa*) is a Brazilian plant which two or three years ago was recommended for the cure of cancer, syphilitic ulcers, &c. The juice or the resin is used externally. See THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, vol. xxviii. p. 69.

207/65. *G. M. D.*—*Inseparable Brilliantine.*—Castor oil, 3ss.; absolute alcohol, 5j.; otto of rose, and oil of neroli, of each 2 drops. The formula which you quote does not afford a clear solution.

68/66. *Enitar.*—We have had no further opportunity of examining the Cuticura remedies, and cannot add to what we stated regarding their composition in last volume, p. 371.

205/74. *Enquirer.*—See reply to "Enitar." *Tikheel* is said to contain gelsemium, but we have not examined it, nor have we seen a formula published.

208/3. — *Enquirer.*—(Correspondents should select any other *nom de plume* than "Enquirer." Those who do select it forget that they appropriate a thing which is common to all *C. & D.* correspondents.) Try dextrin.

210/46. *A. F. B.*—Please send us a specimen of the oxytel to which you refer.

207/21. *Orfila* (Madrid).—Vaseline, or any other fatty body, to which a little carbolic acid is generally added, is used to smear surgical instruments in order to prevent them rusting. Your other request will be attended to.

69/210. *Chemieus* (Rhyl).—The following has been said to be a formula for a preparation similar to Injection *Brou* :—

Zinci sulph.	..	..	..	..	gr. xv.
Plumbi acet.	..	..	..	..	gr. xxx.
Tinct. catchu	..	..	..	..	fl. ij.
Tinct. opii crocata	..	..	..	..	fl. ij.
Aque ad	..	..	..	..	3vj.

(Not to be filtered.)

206/35. *Wholesale*.—For an *Asthma Powder* see page 16 of current volume. Please refer to our Buyers' Reference List for the other matter.

203/32. *R. B.*—We presume that the colouring-matter of the varnish is bituminous. For ebony stain pyrogallic acid and an iron salt are satisfactory.

One of our renewing subscribers writes :—"Awful nuisance, 'CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST' not to hand. I have not seen anything to arouse my attention to the fact that you were waiting my subscription. I enclose cheque for 1*l*, so I hope I shall not be inconvenienced this time next year. What is the subscription for life?"

209/59. *W. H. J.*—By *Ol. Pterocarpi Ligni* we should think that yellow sandal-wood oil is meant, the prescriber having evidently confused the name with the generic name of red sandal wood.

211/4. *F. E. J.*—The formula for *Tinct. Opii Aquos.* was printed on page 102 of the current volume.

210/48. *Cochineal* finds that he gets 4 oz. of residue from 5 oz. of tolu balsam in making *Syrupus Tolutanus*, and would like to know how much other operators obtain.

52/205. *Vet.* wants to know the best treatment to reduce a swelling caused by one horse kicking another inside the foreleg at the knee. The local "vet." had blistered, but this seems to have made it worse, if anything. Done about six weeks ago; swelling extends above and below the knee; have used stimulating ointment; slight lameness, but the chief thing is the unsightliness of the swelling.

From the description we should consider the best treatment now to be evaporating lotion, as—

Pot. nit.	..	..	..	..	3j.
Spt. vini	..	..	..	..	3j.
Acid. acetic. dil.	..	..	..	..	3j.
Aq. ad	..	..	..	..	Oj.

M. Ft. lotio.

To be applied on a flannel bandage made thoroughly wet, and renewed two or three times a day. This might be followed in a few days by—

Lin. saponis	..	..	..	..	3j.
Tr. arnicæ	..	..	..	..	3j.
Aq. ad	..	..	..	..	3viij.

M. Ft. lotio.

To be hand-rubbed into the affected place, and allowed to dry on, without bandage, night and morning.

If the bone is injured, and an exostosis started, the above will only prove palliative, and repeated applications will afterwards be required of—

Hyd. biniod.	..	..	..	..	3j.
Adipis	..	..	..	..	3iss.

M. Ft. ung. Semel hebdomada.

A horse may continue at work with this application.

Information Wanted.

[Replies to the following requests are solicited by correspondents of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.]

37/206. "Petrosine," a preparation of paraffin resembling white vaseline: maker, or where procurable.

209/8. Address wanted of maker of spongio platinum perfume lamps.

207/67. Makers of machinery for the manufacture of granular preparations.

206/59. Formula for liq. euonymin c. pepsin.

TRADE-MARKS APPLIED FOR.

THE *Trade Marks Journal* publishes the following notice:—"Any person who has good grounds for objection to the registration of any of the following marks may, within two months of the date of this journal, give notice in duplicate at the Patent Office, in the form 'J,' in the second schedule to the Trade Marks Rules, 1833, of opposition to such registration." The address of the Patent Office is Southampton Buildings London, W.C.

From the "*Trade Marks Journal*," December 7, 1887.

"HOBYS IMPERIAL BLACKING": for blacking, kid-revivers, and French varnish. By G. Hoby & Co., 4 Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C. 61,640.

"SODA-WATER," and signature of depositor, on label; for soda-water. By M. J. Murphy, Waterford. 63,439.

"LION," figure of a lion, and Scriptural quotation; for disinfecting, common, and toilet soaps. By R. L. Hattersley, E. G. Hattersley, and W. Clough (trading as The Lion Soap Company), Bradford. 64,525-7.

"CHASE'S LIQUID GLUE"; for the same. By London Paste Company, Arlington Street Works, New North Road, London. 64,684.

"IMPERIAL"; for glass bottles. By Dan Rylands, Stairfoot, near Barnsley. 64,763. Also "Colindian"; for the same, 65,131.

"PAPOID"; for medicinal preparations. By B. Kühn, 36 St. Mary Street Hill, E.C. 65,041.

"CARLSBADEE SPRUELSALZ," and other wording, on label; for chemical salts. By Karlsbader Mineral-Wasser-Versendung, Löbel Schottlander, Karlsbad. 65,604.

"GULLIVER'S LILLIPUTIAN PILLS," and other wording, on label; for a medicinal preparation. By S. Gulliver & Co., wine and spirit merchants, &c., Aylesbury. 65,727.

"DUNN'S FRUIT-SALT BAKING-POWDER," and other wording, on fancy label; for baking-powder. By W. G. Dunn (trading as W. G. Dunn & Co.), 40 Horton Road, Hackney, and Hamilton, Ontario. 65,833.

"LOCKWOOD'S AMERICAN HAIR": for a preparation for the hair. By J. S. Lockwood, 30 The Moor, Sheffield. 66,153.

"CALEDONIA"; for medicated and perfumed soaps. By Isdale & McCallum, Paisley. 66,208 9.

"POLO BITTERS" and other wording, on label; for medicated bitters. By T. P. Griffin & Co., 2 and 3 Philpot Lane, E.C. 66,519.

Fancy Monogram; for baking-powder. By J. Lingford & Son, Bishop Auckland. 66,575.

"AUGEAN"; for chemical substances (Class 2). By Burgess, Willows & Francis, 101 High Holborn, W.C. 66,738.

"KALODONT" on label; for preparations for the teeth. By F. A. Sargs & Co., 7 Schwindgasse, Vienna. 67,160.

"HUGGETT'S PASTILLES FOR INHALATION AND FUMIGATION"; for medicated pastilles. By S. Huggett, chemist and druggist, Criterion Buildings, Upper Holloway, N. 67,213.